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James Lennox







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THE
BRITISH PROSE WRITERS.

VOL. VII.

LADY M. W. MONTAGU'S LETTERS
FROM
CONSTANTINOPLE.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY JOHN SHARPE,
PICCADILLY.

1819—21.



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LADY
M.W.MONTAGU'S LETTERS
VOL.I.



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W. Murray del.

LONDON. PUBLISHED BY JOHN SHARPE, PICCADILLY.

1820.

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**ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS**

PREFACE BY A LADY,

1724.

As going, like common editors, to advertise the reader of beauties and excellencies of the work laid before him : tell him, that the illustrious author had opportunities : other travellers, whatever their quality or curiosity may e been, cannot obtain ; and a genius capable of making best improvement of every opportunity. But if the ler, after perusing *one* letter only, has not discernment istinguish that natural elegance, that delicacy of senti- it and observation, that easy gracefulness and lovely plicity (which is the perfection of writing), in which e *Letters* exceed all that has appeared in this kind, or oet in any other, let him lay the book down, and leave those who have.

he noble author had the goodness to lend me her MS. to sfy my curiosity in some inquiries I had made concerning travels ; and when I had it in my hands, how was it ible to part with it ? I once had the vanity to hope I ht acquaint the public, that it owed this invaluable sure to my importunities. But, alas ! the most in- ous author has condemned it to obscurity during her ; and conviction, as well as deference, obliges me to d to her reasons. However, if these *Letters* appear after, when I am in my grave, let this attend them, in imony to posterity, that among her contemporaries, *one* nan, at least, was just to her merit.

here is not any thing so excellent but some will carp at and the rather because of its excellency. But to such ereritics I shall not say * * * * *

condemned.

gant entertainment. For, which enliven every part, and that in spreads through the whole; besides for which it may justly be accounted English tongue; the reader will find an account of the customs and manners with whom this lady conversed, the author. But, as her ladyship's pen inmost follies of the heart, so she passed over them with an air of pity, treating with the politeness of a co of a lady, what the severity of her j condemn.

In short, let her own sex, at le aside diabolical Envy, and its br their accursed company, sly whis spiteful detraction, and the rest of I hope, are very falsely said to at more apt to think they frequent virtuous women never come. Let other, if they think fit, and strive they cannot equal it. Let us be way to any unkind or disrespect ornament of our sex merely be doubt not but our hearts

Rather let us freely own the superiority of this sublime genius, as I do, in the sincerity of my soul; pleased that a *woman* triumphs, and proud to follow in her train. Let us offer her the palm which is so justly her due; and if we pretend to any laurels, lay them willingly at her feet.

M. A.

December 18, 1724.

Charm'd into love of what obscures my fame,
If I had wit, I'd celebrate her name,
And all the beauties of her mind proclaim:
Till Malice, deafen'd with the mighty sound,
Its ill-concerted calumnies confound:
Let fall the mask, and with pale Envy meet,
To ask, and find, their pardon at her feet.

You see, madam, how I lay every thing at your feet. As the tautology shows the poverty of my genius, it likewise shows the extent of your empire over my imagination.

May 31, 1725.



LADY M. W. MONTAGU'S LETTERS.

I.

TO THE COUNTESS OF MAR.*

Rotterdam, Aug. 3, O. S. 1716.

I FLATTER myself, dear sister, that I shall give you some pleasure in letting you know that I have safely passed the sea, though we had the ill-fortune of a storm. We were persuaded by the captain of the yacht to set out in a calm, and he pretended there was nothing so easy as to tide it over: but, after two days slowly moving, the wind blew so hard, that none of the sailors could keep their feet, and

* Lady Frances Pierrepont, second daughter of Evelyn, first duke of Kingston, married John Ereskine, earl of Mar, who was secretary of state for Scotland in 1705, joined the Pretender in 1715, was attainted in 1716, and died at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1732. George I. confirmed to lady Mar the jointure on lord Mar's forfeited estate, to which she was entitled by her marriage settlement, with remainder to her daughter, *lady Frances Ereskine*. She resided many years at *Paris*.

get to Rotterdam, but went in the Helvoetsluys, where we had voiture to the Brill.

I was charmed with the neatness of the town; but my arrival at Rotterdam presented a new scene of pleasure. All the streets were paved with broad stones, and before many artificers' doors are placed seats of marble, so neatly kept, that, I assume almost all over the town yesterday I put on my slippers, without receiving on my feet the Dutch pavement of the street with more hardness than our bedchambers. The town is full of people, with such busy faces, all so different from what I can hardly fancy it is not some new town, but I see it is every day the same. Rotterdam can be more advantageously

cripples, so common in London, nor teased with the importunity of idle fellows and wenches, that choose to be nasty and lazy. The common servants, and little shop-women, here, are more nicely clean than most of our ladies ; and the great variety of neat dresses (every woman dressing her head after her own fashion) is an additional pleasure in seeing the town.

You see, hitherto, dear sister, I make no complaints ; and, if I continue to like travelling as well as I do at present, I shall not repent my project. It will go a great way in making me satisfied with it, if it affords me an opportunity of entertaining you. But it is not from Holland that you may expect a disinterested offer. I can write enough in the style of Rotterdam, to tell you plainly, in one word, that I expect returns of all the London news. You see I have already learnt to make a good bargain ; and that it is not for nothing I will so much as tell you, I am your affectionate sister. -

II.

TO MRS. SKERRET.*

Hague, Aug. 5, O. S. 1716.

I MAKE haste to tell you, dear madam, that, after all the dreadful fatigues you threatened me with, I am hitherto very well pleased with my journey. We take care to make such short stages every day,

* *Afterward the second wife of Robert, first earl of Orford.*

aved, shaded on each
 bordered with large canals, full of water
 and repassing. Every twenty paces give
 prospect of some villa, and every four hours
 a large town, so surprisingly neat, I should
 would be charmed with them. The place
 at is certainly one of the finest villages in
 Here are several squares finely built, (I
 think a particular beauty) the whole set
 large trees. The *Vo-rhout* is, at the
 the Hyde Park and Mall of the people
 for they take the air in it both on
 coaches. There are shops for wafers
 &c.

I have been to see several of the
 gardens, but I will not tease you
 with descriptions. I dare say you think me
 tedious enough. But I must not con-
 tinue for not obe

III.

TO MRS. S. C.

Nimeguen, Aug. 13, O. S. 1716.

I AM extremely sorry, my dear S. that your fears of disobliging your relations, and their fears for your health and safety, have hindered me from enjoying the happiness of your company, and you the pleasure of a diverting journey. I receive some degree of mortification from every agreeable novelty or pleasing prospect, by the reflection of your having so unluckily missed the delight which I know it would have given you.

If you were with me in this town, you would be ready to expect to receive visits from your Nottingham friends. No two places were ever more resembling; one has but to give the Maese the name of the Trent, and there is no distinguishing the prospect. The houses, like those of Nottingham, are built one above another, and are intermixed in the same manner with trees and gardens. The tower they call Julius Cæsar's has the same situation with Nottingham castle; and I cannot help fancying, I see from it the Trent-field, Adboulton, &c. places so well known to us. It is true, the fortifications make a considerable difference. All the learned in the art of war bestow great commendations on them; for my part, that know nothing of the matter, I shall content myself with telling you, it is a very pretty walk on the *ramparts*, on which there is a tower, very deer-

OF MEN, WITH HORSES AND CHANGELING
value of an English two-pence to go
then away they go, bridge and all, to
of the river, with so slow a motion
sensible of any at all.

I was yesterday at the French church
very much at their manner of service
clapped on a broad-brimmed hat in
which gave him entirely the air of
him, in Bartholomew fair, which I
extraordinary antic gestures, and p
such stuff as the other talked to the
ever, the congregation seemed to
great devotion; and I was informed
flock, that he is a person of particula
them. I believe, by this time, yo
tired with my account of him, as
sermon; but I am sure your brothe

LADY
M.W. MONTAGU'S LETTERS
—
VOL. I.



Sir G. Kreller pinx^t

J. Murray del.

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1620.

could not enough admire the altars, the rich images of the silver) and the *enchassûres* of I could not help murmuring in profusion of pearls, diamonds, and in the adornment of rotten teeth own that I had wickedness equal to Ursula's pearl necklaces; though there was no wickedness at all, and I was only one's neighbour; but I envied and wished she herself conveyed her plate. I should also gladly see a great St. Christopher, which would look very well in a cistern.

These were my pious reflections. I was very well satisfied to see, piled up for the use of our nation, the skulls of the *chigins*. I have seen some hundreds of no less consequence; but I was in the common style of travellers so that I made a list of them, being persuaded

V.

TO THE COUNTESS OF BRISTOL.*

Nuremberg, Aug. 22, O. S. 1716.

AFTER five days travelling post, I could not sit down to write on any other occasion, than to tell my dear lady Bristol, that I have not forgotten her obliging command, of sending her some account of my travels.

I have already passed a large part of Germany, have seen all that is remarkable in Cologne, Frankfurt, Wurtzburg, and this place. It is impossible not to observe the difference between the free towns and those under the government of absolute princes, as all the little sovereigns of Germany are. In the first there appears an air of commerce and plenty: the streets are well built, and full of people, neatly and plainly dressed: the shops are loaded with merchandise, and the commonalty are clean and cheerful. In the other, you see a sort of shabby finery, a number of dirty people of quality tawdered out; narrow nasty streets out of repair, wretchedly thin of inhabitants, and above half of the common sort asking alms. I cannot help fancying one under the figure of a clean Dutch citizen's wife, and the other like a poor town lady of pleasure, painted and ribboned out in her head-dress, with

* Elizabeth, daughter and heir of sir Thomas Felton, bart. of Playford, county of Suffolk, second wife of John Hervey, first earl of Bristol. She died in 1741.

ashamed to own that I wish the force in other parts of the world. considers impartially the merit of a rich in most places, the respect and the it procures, not to speak of the end it occasions, (which is very often a charm to the wearer,) one is forced there is need of an uncommon virtue to resist the temptation of pleasing and flattering rivals ; and that it is natural to fall into a folly which betrays a want of money which is the source of many basenesses. What numbers of men in the world with generous inclinations, have been the instruments of betraying a whole people, being led by vain desires that they could clear no other way of their honour, and which

lies. I have seen here, in the principal church, a large piece of the cross set in jewels, and the point of the spear, which they told me, very gravely, was the same that pierced the side of our Saviour. But I was particularly diverted in a little Roman Catholic church which is permitted here, where the professors of that religion are not very rich, and consequently cannot adorn their images in so rich manner as their neighbours. For, not to be quite destitute of all finery, they have dressed up an image of our Saviour over the altar in a fair full-bottomed wig, very well powdered. I imagine I see your ladyship stare at this article, of which you very much doubt the veracity; but, upon my word, I have not yet made use of the privilege of a traveller; and my whole account is written with the same plain sincerity of heart, with which I assure you that I am, dear madam, yours, &c. &c.

VI.

TO MRS. THISTLETHWAYTE.

Ratisbon, Aug. 30, O. S. 1716.

I HAD the pleasure of receiving yours but the day before I left London. I give you a thousand thanks for your good wishes, and have such an opinion of their efficacy, that I am persuaded I owe in part to them the good luck of having proceeded so far on my long journey without any ill accident; for I do not reckon it any, to have been stopped a few days in this town by a cold, since it has not only given me an opportunity of seeing all that is curious in it,

envoys from different states. number of them, and they m agreeably enough, if they wer point of ceremony. But, inste design of making the town as ther as they can, and improving they amuse themselves no othe petual quarrels, which they t by leaving them to their succe to Ratisbon receives, regularly rels among the perquisites of l

You may be sure the ladies their side, in cherishing and i portant *picques*, which divide as many parties as there are fa rather to suffer the mortificat alone on their assembly-night not from their pretensions

lasting disputes turns entirely upon rank, place, and the title of Excellency, which they all pretend to ; and, what is very hard, will give it to nobody. For my part, I could not forbear advising them (for the public good) to give the title of Excellency to every body, which would include the receiving it from every body ; but the very mention of such a dishonourable peace was received with as much indignation as Mrs. Blackaire did the motion of a reference : and, indeed, I began to think myself ill-natured, to offer to take from them, in a town where there are so few diversions, so entertaining an amusement. I know that my peaceable disposition already gives me a very ill figure, and that it is *publicly* whispered, as a piece of impertinent pride in me, that I have hitherto been saucily civil to every body, as if I thought nobody good enough to quarrel with. I should be obliged to change my behaviour if I did not intend to pursue my journey in a few days.

I have been to see the churches here, and had the permission of touching the relics, which was never suffered in places where I was not known. I had, by this privilege, the opportunity of making an observation, which I doubt not might have been made in all the other churches, that the emeralds and rubies which they show round their relics and images are most of them false ; though they tell you that many of the *crosses* and *Madonnas*, set round with these stones, have been the gifts of the emperors and other great princes. I do not doubt, indeed, but they were at first jewels of value ; but the good fathers have found it convenient to apply them to other uses, and the people are just as well satisfied

3 LETTERS.

These relics they showed gold, which they could not forbear asking to see it, Whether the question almost put him answered, They only very much scandalised the *Trinity*, where the figure of a decrepit man to his knees, and holding in his arms the *Holy Ghost*, in the air over him.

his minute to call me to see to tell you, very abruptly. &c. &c.

I.

TESS OF MAR.

Vienna, Sept. 8, O. S. 1716.

safely arrived at Vienna; not at all suffered in my journey (to me) in that of my

from Ratisbon, a journey on the Danube, in one of which they very properly call them all the conveniences of chambers, kitchens, &c

, her only son, was born 17

They are rowed by twelve men each, and move with such incredible swiftness, that in the same day you have the pleasure of a vast variety of prospects; and, within the space of a few hours, you have the pleasure of seeing a populous city adorned with magnificent palaces, and the most romantic solitudes, which appear distant from the commerce of mankind, the banks of the Danube being charmingly diversified with woods, rocks, mountains covered with vines, fields of corn, large cities, and ruins of ancient castles. I saw the great towns of Passau and Lintz, famous for the retreat of the imperial court when Vienna was besieged.

This town, which has the honour of being the emperor's residence, did not at all answer my ideas of it, being much less than I expected to find it; the streets are very close, and so narrow, one cannot observe the fine fronts of the palaces, though many of them very well deserve observation, being truly magnificent. They are built of fine white stone, and are excessively high. For, as the town is too little for the number of the people that desire to live in it, the builders seem to have projected to repair that misfortune, by clapping one town on the top of another, most of the houses being of five, and some of them six stories. You may easily imagine, that the streets being so narrow, the rooms are extremely dark; and, what is an inconveniency much more intolerable, in my opinion, there is no house that has so few as five or six families in it. The apartments of the greatest ladies, and even of the ministers of state, are divided but by a partition from that of a tailor or shoemaker; and I know nobody that has above two floors in any house, one

the great common and as when you have once travelled can be more surprisingly magnificent. They are commonly a suite of large rooms, all inlaid, the doors richly carved and gilt, and the furniture seldom seen in the palaces of other countries. Their apartments with hangings of the finest tapestries, magnificent looking-glasses in silver tables, beds, chairs, canopies, of the richest Genoese damask covered with gold lace or embroidery, is made gay by pictures, china, and in almost every room rock crystal.

I have already had the honor to be entertained at dinner by several of the first families, and among them the just

I was yesterday at count Schonbrunn,* the vice-chancellor's garden, where I was invited to dinner. I must own, I never saw a place so perfectly delightful as the fauxburg of Vienna. It is very large, and almost wholly composed of delicious palaces. If the emperor found it proper to permit the gates of the town to be laid open, that the fauxburg might be joined to it, he would have one of the largest and best-built cities in Europe. Count Schonbrunn's villa is one of the most magnificent; the furniture, all rich brocades, so well fancied and fitted up, nothing can look more gay and splendid; not to speak of a gallery, full of rarities of coral, mother of pearl, &c. and, throughout the whole house, a profusion of gilding, carving, fine paintings, the most beautiful porcelain, statues of alabaster and ivory, and vast orange and lemon trees in gilt pots. The dinner was perfectly fine and well ordered, and made still more agreeable by the good humour of the count.

I have not yet been at court, being forced to stay for my gown, without which there is no waiting on the empress; though I am not without great impatience to see a beauty that has been the admiration of so many different nations. When I have had that honour, I will not fail to let you know my real thoughts, always taking a particular pleasure in communicating them to my dear sister.

* The palace of Schonbrunn is distant about two miles from Vienna. It was designed by John Bernard Fischers, the Palladio of Germany, in 1696, and was afterwards used as a hunting seat by the emperor and his court.

ning to write to you, but that they will be the most impartial representations of a free heart, and the truest copies you ever saw, though of a very different original. Not a feature will be softened, nor any advantageous light employed to make the ugly a little less hideous, but you shall find it in aspects most horribly like. You will do me an injustice if you look upon any thing I shall say from this instant, as a compliment either to you or to myself: whatever I write will be the real thought of that hour, and I know you will no more expect of me to persevere till death in every sentiment I now set down, than you would imagine a man's face should never change after his picture is once drawn.

The freedom I shall use in this manner of thinking aloud (as somebody calls it), or talking to myself, may indeed prove me a fool.

windows in our breasts, I should be for carrying it further, and making those windows casements : that while a man showed his heart to all the world, he might do something more for his friends, e'en take it out, and trust it to their handling. I think I love you as well as king Herod could Herodias (though I never had so much as one dance with you), and would as freely give you my heart in a dish as he did another's head. But since Jupiter will not have it so, I must be content to show my taste in life as I do my taste in painting, by loving to have as little drapery as possible, because it is good to use people to what they must be acquainted with ; and there will certainly come some day of judgment to uncover every soul of us. We shall then see how the prudes of this world owed all their fine figure only to their being a little straiter laced, and that they were naturally as arrant squabs as those that went more loose, nay, as those that never girded their loins at all.

But a particular reason to engage you to write your thoughts the more freely to me, is, that I am confident no one knows you better. For I find, when others express their opinion of you, it falls very short of mine, and I am sure, at the same time, theirs is such as you would think sufficiently in your favour.

You may easily imagine how desirous I must be of a correspondence with a person who had taught me long ago, that it was as possible to esteem at first sight, as to love : and who has since ruined me for all the conversation of one sex, and almost all the friendship of the other. I am but too sensible, *through your means*, that the company of men

than philosophy, and, since I heard you, I
is one alive wiser than all the sages. A
female wisdom! it makes a man ten times
uneasy than his own! What is very strange
true herself, when you have the dressing be-
comable for one's repose. What a world
might you have done in your time, if you
loved half the fine gentlemen who have seen
have but conversed with you? They were
been strangely caught, while they thought
fall in love with a fair face, and you had been
them with reason and virtue; two beaux
the very fops pretend to have no acquaintance
with.

The unhappy distance at which we converse
removes a great many of those punctilious
tions and decorums that oftentimes in conver-
sation prejudice truth to save good breeding
may now hear of my faults, and you of your
qualities, without a blush on either side.
verre upon such unfortunate generous terms

anner did I behave the last hour I saw you? gree of concern did I discover when I felt a ie, which I hope you never will feel, that of rom what one most esteems? For if my ooked but like that of your common ac- ce, I am the greatest of all the hypocrites decency made.

since pass by the house but with the same melancholy that we feel upon seeing the a friend, which only serves to put us in what we have lost. I reflect upon the cir- ces of your departure, your behaviour in ay call your last moments, and I indulge a ind of satisfaction in thinking you gave those last moments to me. I would fain this was not accidental, but proceeded from ation which I know you have in finding out of people's sentiments, and that you were lling the last man that would have parted should be the last that did. I really looked



...happy fondness of an unex
surrounded with all the enchantment
romance and poetry. In a word, ma
from him as many pleasures and gr
even I think you can give. I wish
heart, and while I examine what pass
gard to you, I cannot but glory in my c
it is capable of so much generosity. I
unalterable esteem and sincerity,

Madam,
Your most faithful obe
humble

IX.

TO MR. POPE.*

for me. It is certain that I may, if I please, take the fine things you say to me for wit and raillery; and, it may be, it would be taking them right. But I never, in my life, was half so well disposed to believe you in earnest as I am at present, and that distance, which makes the continuation of your friendship improbable, has very much increased my faith in it.

I find that I have (as well as the rest of my sex), whatever face I set on it, a strong disposition to believe in miracles. Do not fancy, however, that I am infected by the air of these popish countries; I have, indeed so far wandered from the discipline of the church of England, as to have been last Sunday at the opera, which was performed in the garden of the *Favorita*; and I was so much pleased with it, I have not yet repented my seeing it. Nothing of that kind ever was more magnificent; and I can easily believe what I am told, that the decorations and habits cost the emperor thirty thousand pounds sterling. The stage was built over a very large canal, and, at the beginning of the second act, divided into two parts, discovering the water, on which there immediately came, from different parts, two fleets of little gilded vessels, that gave the representation of a naval fight. It is not easy to imagine the beauty of this scene, which I took particular notice of. But all the rest

them must be directed by circumstances; and, as most of them were written to lady Mary during her first absence from England, we shall advert to them, as making a part of this correspondence.

The letter of Pope, to which this is an answer, is printed from the original MS.

a surprising swiftness.

that it is hard to carry the eye to the end of the habits in the utmost magnificence, to number of one hundred and eight. No household such large decorations; but the ladies sitting in the open air, exposes them to great inconveniences; for there is but one canopy for the whole family; and the first night it was raining, a shower of rain happening, the opera was broken off, and the company crowded away in confusion, that I was almost squeezed to death.

But if their operas are thus delightful, their comedies are in as high a degree ridiculous. I have but one playhouse, where I had to go to a German comedy, and was happened to be the story of Amphitryon. The subject has been already handled by a French poet, I was curious to see what he would make of it.

use Jupiter made of his metamorphosis; for you no sooner saw him under the figure of Amphitryon, but, instead of flying to Alcmena, with the raptures Mr. Dryden puts into his mouth, he sends for Amphitryon's tailor, and cheats him of a laced coat, and his banker of a bag of money, a Jew of a diamond ring, and bespeaks a great supper in his name: and the greatest part of the comedy turns upon poor Amphitryon's being tormented by these people for their debts. Mercury uses Sosia in the same manner. But I could not easily pardon the liberty the poet has taken of larding his play with, not only indecent expressions, but such gross words, as I don't think our mob would suffer from a mountebank. Besides, the two Sosias very fairly let down their breeches in the direct view of the boxes, which were full of people of the first rank, that seemed very well pleased with their entertainment; and assured me this was a celebrated piece.

I shall conclude my letter with this remarkable relation, very well worthy the serious consideration of Mr. Collier.* I will not trouble you with farewell compliments, which I think generally as impertinent as curtsies at leaving the room, when a visit had been too long already.

* Jeremy Collier, an English divine, eminent for his piety and wit.

THOUGH I have so lately troubled you sister, with a long letter, yet I will keep close in giving you an account of my first court.

In order to that ceremony, I was squeezed into a gown, and adorned with a gorget and implements thereunto belonging; a dress convenient, but which certainly showed my face and shape to great advantage. I cannot give you some description of the fashions which are more monstrous, and contrary to common sense and reason, than it is possible for you to imagine. They build certain scaffolds on their heads, about a yard high, of three or four stories, fortified with yards of heavy ribbon. The foundation of the structure is a thing they call a *bourre*, which is of the same shape and kind, but

of diamonds, pearls, red, green, and yellow, that it certainly requires as much art and ence to carry the load upright, as to dance day-day with the garland. Their whale-bone hats outdo ours by several yards circumference, ver some acres of ground.

may easily suppose how this extraordinary ets off and improves the natural ugliness with

God Almighty has been pleased to endow generally speaking. Even the lovely empress is obliged to comply, in some degree, with absurd fashions, which they would not quit the world. I had a private audience (accord-ceremony) of half an hour, and then all the adies were permitted to come and make their

I was perfectly charmed with the empress : ot, however, tell you that her features are ; her eyes are not large, but have a lively ull of sweetness; her complexion the finest I w; her nose and forehead well made, but outh has ten thousand charms, that touch the When she smiles, it is with a beauty and ess that forces adoration. She has a vast ty of fine fair hair; but then her person!— ist speak of it poetically to do it rigid justice; : the poets have said of the mien of Juno, of Venus, come not up to the truth. The move with her: the famous statue of Me-

in to pay their court; but this drawing-
very different from that of England; no ma
it but the grand-master, who comes in to
the empress of the approach of the emper
imperial majesty did me the honour of spe
me in a very obliging manner; but he neve
to any of the other ladies; and the who
with a gravity and air of ceremony that h
thing very formal in it.

The empress Amelia, dowager of the
peror Joseph, came this evening to wai
reigning empress, followed by the two
chesses, her daughters, who are very
young princesses. Their imperial majest
and went to meet her at the door of the ro
which she was seated in an armed chair,
empress, and in the same manner at suj
these the men had the permission of pay

ding of a sister maid, whom the empress always presents with her picture set in diamonds. The three first of them are called *ladies of the key*, and wear gold keys by their sides; but what I find most pleasant, is the custom which obliges them, as long as they live, after they have left the empress's service, to make her some present every year on the day of her feast. Her majesty is served by no married women but the *grande maitresse*, who is generally a widow of the first quality, always very old, and is at the same time groom of the stole, and mother of the maids. The dressers are not at all in the figure they pretend to in England, being looked upon no otherwise than as downright chambermaids.

I had an audience next day of the empress mother, a princess of great virtue and goodness, but who piques herself too much on a violent devotion. She is perpetually performing extraordinary acts of penance, without having ever done any thing to deserve them. She has the same number of maids of honour, whom she suffers to go in colours; but she herself never quits her mourning: and sure nothing can be more dismal than the mourning here, even for a brother. There is not the least bit of linen to be seen; all black crape instead of it. The neck, ears, and side of the face, are covered with a plaited piece of the same stuff, and the face, that peeps out in the midst of it, looks as if it were pilloried. The widows wear, over and above, a crape forehead cloth; and in this solemn weed go to all the public places of diversion without scruple.

The next day I was to wait on the empress *Amelia*, who is now at her palace of retirement,

LETTERS.

I had there the pleasure wholly new to me, but amusement of this court. seated on a little throne in the garden, and on two parties of her ladies young archduchesses, all jewels, with fine light at proper distances were which were the marks as that of a CUPID, filling the motto, *'Tis easy to find*, a FORTUNE, holding the motto, *For her whom* sword was a SWORD, with a motto, *Here is no*. Near the empress was a table with flowers, and made of little; hung rich Turkish handkerchiefs, laces, &c. for the small were the first with her own ruby ring, set round with a box. There was for the table with brilliants: and, before the china for the tea-table, on trunks, fans, and many of nature. All the men of spectators; but the ladies shoot, and the archduchess first prize. - I was very well in this entertainment, and I might make as good a figure as the Eneid, if I could write the favourite pleasure

24000,
but of
which e
and to
the
which
the

emperor, and there is rarely a week without some feast of this kind, which makes the young ladies skilful enough to defend a fort. They laughed very much to see me afraid to handle a gun.

My dear sister, you will easily pardon an abrupt conclusion. I believe, by this time, you are ready to fear I shall never conclude at all.

XI.

TO THE LADY RICH.

Vienna, Sept. 20, O. S. 1716.

I AM extremely pleased, but not at all surprised, at the long delightful letter you have had the goodness to send me. I know that you can think of an absent friend even in the midst of a court, and you love to oblige, where you can have no view of a return; and I expect from you that you should love me, and think of me, when you do not see me.

I have compassion for the mortifications that you tell me befel our little friend, and I pity her much more, since I know that they are only owing to the barbarous customs of our country. Upon my word, if she were here, she would have no other fault but that of being something too young for the fashion, and she has nothing to do but to transplant herself hither about seven years hence, to be again a young and blooming beauty. I can assure you that wrinkles, or a small stoop in the shoulders, nay, even gray hairs, are no objection to the making new conquests. I know you cannot easily figure to yourself a young fellow of five-and-

LADY MONTAGU'S LETTERS.

ling my lady Suffolk with passion, or
hand the countess of Oxford from an
at such are the sights I see every day, and
perceive any body surprised at them but
A woman, till five-and-thirty, is only
on as a raw girl; and can possibly make
n the world till about forty. I do not
t your ladyship may think of this matter:
a considerable comfort to me, to know
on earth such a paradise for old women;
content to be insignificant at present, in
of returning when I am fit to appear
lse. I cannot help lamenting on this oc-
: pitiful case of too many good English
g since retired to prudery and ratafia,
their stars had luckily conducted hither,
e in the first rank of beauties. Besides,
exing word *reputation* has quite another
ere than what you give it at London; and
over is so far from losing that it is pro-
ng reputation; ladies being much more
in regard to the rank of their lovers,
of their husbands.

at you will think very odd, the two sects
: the whole nation of petticoats are ut-
own in this place. Here are neither
nor prudes. No woman dares appear
nough to encourage two lovers at a time
e not seen any such prudes as to preten
their husbands, who are certainly th
ed set of people in the world, and loo
r wives' gallants as favourably as men
deputies, that take the troublesome
siness off their hands. They

however, the less to do on that account ; for they are generally deputies in another place themselves ; in one word, it is the established custom for every lady to have two husbands, one that bears the name, and another that performs the duties. And these engagements are so well known, that it would be a downright affront, and publicly resented, if you invited a woman of quality to dinner, without, at the same time, inviting her two attendants of lover and husband, between whom she sits in state with great gravity. The sub-marriages generally last twenty years together, and the lady often commands the poor lover's estate, even to the utter ruin of his family.

These connexions, indeed, are as seldom begun by any real passion as other matches ; for a man makes but an ill figure that is not in some commerce of this nature ; and a woman looks out for a lover as soon as she is married, as part of her equipage, without which she could not be genteel ; and the first article of the treaty is establishing the pension, which remains to the lady in case the gallant should prove inconstant. This chargeable point of honour I look upon as the real foundation of so many wonderful instances of constancy. I really know some women of the first quality, whose pensions are as well known as their annual rents, and yet nobody esteems them the less ; on the contrary, their discretion would be called in question, if they should be suspected to be mistresses for nothing. A great part of their emulation consists in trying who shall get most ; and having no intrigue at all is *so far a disgrace*, that, I will assure you, a *lady who is very much* my friend here, told me but

neved that was the cause of my seer
and this was all she could find to sa
cation.

But one of the pleasantest adventu
with in my life was last night, and i
a just idea in what a delicate manner
sions are managed in this country.
assembly of the countess of —, a
count of —, leading me down stai
how long I was to stay at Vienna? I
that my stay depended on the emperc
not in my power to determine it. “ W
said he, “ whether your time here is
short, I think you ought to pass it ag
to that end you must engage in a *little*
heart.” “ My heart,” answered I, gra
“ does not engage very easily; and I ha
of parting with it” “ I see —”

my own country; but I was well enough acquainted with the way of this, to know that he really intended me an obligation, and I thanked him with a very grave curtsy for his zeal to serve me, and only assured him I had no occasion to make use of it.

Thus you see, my dear, that gallantry and good-breeding are as different, in different climates, as morality and religion. Who have the rightest notions of both, we shall never know till the day of judgment; for which great day of *eclaircissement*, I own there is very little impatience in your, &c. &c.

XII.

TO MRS. THISTLETHWAYTE.

Vienna, Sept. 26, O. S. 1716.

I WAS never more agreeably surprised than by your obliging letter. It is a peculiar mark of my esteem that I tell you so; and I can assure you, that if I loved you one grain less than I do, I should be very sorry to see it so diverting as it is. The mortal aversion I have to writing, makes me tremble at the thoughts of a new correspondent; and I believe I have disobliged no less than a dozen of my London acquaintance by refusing to hear from them, though I did verily think they intended to send me very entertaining letters. But I had rather lose the pleasure of reading several witty things, than be forced to write *many stupid ones*.

MONTAGU'S LETTERS.

these considerations, I am c
f your friendship, and beg
same goodness, though I f
will make you immediately
from Austria that one ca
and I am already infected w
country. Even their amor
are carried on with a su
hey are never lively but upon
There, I own, they show a
d it is not long since two c
narrow street at night, the l
ing able to adjust the cerem
d go back, sat there, with eq
two in the morning, and we
ermined to die upon the spot,
n a point of that importance, t
ld never have been cleared ti
he emperor had not sent his g
; and even then they refused to
ent could be found out of taki
in chairs, exactly in the same
ladies were agreed, it was w
that the *pas* was decided betwee
a, no less tenacious of their ran

assion is so omnipotent in the
en, that even their husbands ne
ready to break their hearts, b
ir puts an end to their rank,
ny place at Vienna. The men f
hed with this point of honour
scorn to marry, but even to r

Any woman of a family not as illustrious as their own; and the pedigree is much more considered by them, than either the complexion or features of their mistresses. Happy are the shes that can number amongst their ancestors counts of the empire; they have neither occasion for beauty, money, nor good conduct, to get them husbands. It is true, as to money, it is seldom any advantage to the man they marry; the laws of Austria confine the woman's portion to two thousand florins (about two hundred pounds English), and whatever they have beside remains in their own possession and disposal. Thus, here are many ladies much richer than their husbands, who are, however, obliged to allow them pin-money agreeably to their quality; and I attribute to this considerable branch of prerogative the liberty that they take upon other occasions.

I am sure you, that know my laziness, and extreme indifference on this subject, will pity me, entangled amongst all these ceremonies, which are a wonderful burden to me, though I am the envy of the whole town, having, by their own customs, be *pas* before them all. They indeed so revenge upon the poor envoys, this great respect shown to ambassadors, that (with all my indifference) I could be very uneasy to suffer it. Upon days of ceremony they have no entrance at court, and on other days must content themselves with walking over every soul, and being the very last taken notice of. But I must write a volume to let you know all the ceremonies; and I have already said much on so dull a subject, which, however,

employs the whole care of the people here. I do not, after this, tell you how agreeably time slid away with me; you know as well as I do, the taste of,

Yours, &c. &c.

XIII.

TO THE LADY X***.

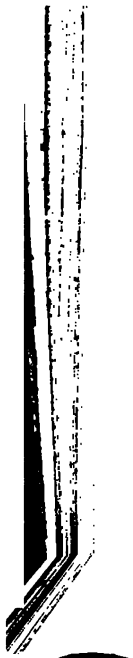
Vienna, Oct. 1, O. S. 1716

You desire me, madam, to send you some account of the customs here, and at the same time a description of Vienna. I am always willing to obey your commands; but you must, upon this occasion, take the will for the deed. If I should undertake to tell you all the particulars, in which the manners here differ from ours, I must write a volume of the dullest stuff that ever was read, printed without being read. Their dress agrees with the French or English in no one article, but wearing petticoats. They have many fashions peculiar to themselves; they think it indecent for a widow ever to wear green or rose colour, but the other gayest colours at her own discretion. The assemblies here are the only regular diversions, the operas being always at court, and commonly on some particular occasion. Madame Rabutin has an assembly constantly every night at her house; and the other ladies, whenever they have a mind to display the magnificence of their apartments, oblige a friend by complimenting them on the

their saint, they declare, that on such a day the assembly shall be at their house in honour of the feast of the count or countess—*such a one*. These days are called days of Gala, and all the friends or relations of the lady, whose saint it is, are obliged to appear in their best clothes, and all their jewels. The mistress of the house takes no particular notice of any body, nor returns any body's visit; and whoever pleases may go, without the formality of being presented. The company are entertained with ice in several forms, winter and summer; afterwards they divide into several parties of ombre, triquet, or conversation, all games of hazard being forbidden.

I saw the other day the gala for count Altheim, the emperor's favourite, and never in my life saw so many fine clothes ill-fancied: they embroider the richest gold stuffs; and provided they can make their clothes expensive enough, that is all the taste they show in them. On other days, the general dress is a scarf, and what you please under it.

But now I am speaking of Vienna, I am sure you expect I should say something of the convents; they are of all sorts and sizes, but I am best pleased with that of St. Lawrence, where the ease and neatness they seem to live with appears to be much more pleasing than those stricter orders, where perpetual silence and nastiness must breed discontent and frettedness. The nuns are all of quality. I think there are to the number of fifty. They have each of them a little cell perfectly clean, the walls of which are covered with pictures more or less fine, according to their quality. A long white stone chimney runs by all of them, furnished with the pic-



these nuns : it is a white robe, and
are turned up with fine white calico
dress the same, excepting a sm
crape that falls behind. They hav
serving nuns, that wait on them a
maids : they receive all visits of
at ombre in their chambers, wit
their abbess, which is very easy t
never saw an old woman so good
near fourscore, and yet shows v
decay, being still lively and cheer
me as if I had been her dang
some pretty things of her own w
meats in abundance. The grat
most rigid ; it is not very hard
through, and I do not doubt but
more slender than ordinary, mig
whole person. The young count
to the grate while I was there, an
him her hand to kiss. But I was
here the only beautiful young wo
at Vienna, and not only beaut
witty, and agreeable, of a great
had been the admiration of the to
forbear showing my surprise at
her : she made me a thousand
ments, and desired me to come c

an infinite pleasure to me," said she, sighing, "but I avoid, with the greatest care, seeing any of my former acquaintance, and whenever they come to our convent, I lock myself in my cell." I observed tears come into her eyes, which touched me extremely, and I began to talk to her in that strain of tender pity she inspired me with; but she would not own to me that she is not perfectly happy. I have since endeavoured to learn the real cause of her retirement, without being able to get any other account but that every body was surprised at it, and nobody guessed the reason.

I have been several times to see her; but it gives me too much melancholy to see so agreeable a young creature buried alive. I am not surprised that nuns have so often inspired violent passions; the pity one naturally feels for them, when they seem worthy of another destiny, making an easy way for yet more tender sentiments. I never in my life had so little charity for the Roman catholic religion, as since I see the misery it occasions so many poor unhappy women! and then the gross superstition of the common people, who are, some or other of them, day and night, offering bits of candle to the wooden figures that are set up almost in every street. The processions I see very often are a pageantry as offensive, and apparently contradictory to common sense, as the pagods of China. God knows whether it be the *womanly* spirit of contradiction that works in me; but there never before was such zeal against popery in the heart of,

Dear madam, &c. &c.

I DESERVE not all the re-
I have been some time
letter, it is not that I
thanks are due to you for
enough to prefer any amuse-
hearing from you ; but
esteem you have so oblig-
help delaying, as long as
you are mistaken. If you
say you expect to be extra
letters, I ought to be mor-
ment that I am sure you
hear from me ; though I
deavours to find out some
you.

I have seen every thing to
a very diligent curiosity. H
particulars of it

I spent above five hours there, and yet there were very few things that stopped me long to consider them : but the number is prodigious, being a very long gallery filled on both sides, and five large rooms. There is a vast quantity of paintings, among which are many fine miniatures : but the most valuable pictures are a few of Corregio, those of Titian being at the Favorita.

The cabinet of jewels did not appear to me so rich as I expected to see it. They showed me here a cup, about the size of a tea-dish, of one entire emerald, which they had so particular a respect for, that only the emperor has the liberty of touching it. There is a large cabinet full of curiosities of clock-work, only one of which I thought worth observing, that was a craw-fish, with all the motions so natural, that it was hard to distinguish it from the life.*

The next cabinet was a large collection of agates, some of them extremely beautiful, and of an uncommon size, and several vases of lapis lazuli. I was surprised to see the cabinet of medals so poorly furnished ; I did not remark one of any value, and they are kept in a most ridiculous disorder. As to the antiques, very few of them deserve that name. Upon my saying they were modern, I could not forbear laughing at the answer of the profound antiquary that showed them, that " they were ancient enough ; for, to his knowledge, they had

* The imperial cabinet at Vienna has been greatly improved since 1716, by the emperors Joseph and Ferdinand. In the classes of mineralogy, and a collection of medals, it now yields to few others in Europe.

me had spoken very wisely to
I will not trouble you with a
of the lumber; but I must not
small piece of loadstone that
steel too heavy for me to lift:
most curious in the whole
some few heads of ancient s
them are defaced by modern s
- I foresee that you will be ve
this letter, and I dare hardly
natured enough to charge th
barrenness of the subject, and
pidity of,

The kingdom of Bohemia is the most desert of any I have seen in Germany. The villages are so poor, and the post-houses so miserable, that clean straw and fair water are blessings not always to be met with, and better accommodation not to be hoped for. Though I carried my own bed with me, I could not, sometimes, find a place to set it up in; and I rather chose to travel all night, as cold as it is, wrapped up in my furs, than go into the common stoves, which are filled with a mixture of all sorts of ill scents.

This town was once the royal seat of the Bohemian kings, and is still the capital of the kingdom. There are yet some remains of its former splendour, being one of the largest towns in Germany, but, for the most part, old built, and thinly inhabited, which makes the houses very cheap. Those people of quality, who cannot easily bear the expense of Vienna, choose to reside here, where they have assemblies, music, and all other diversions (those of a court excepted), at very moderate rates, all things being here in great abundance, especially the best wild-fowl I ever tasted. I have already been visited by some of the most considerable ladies, whose relations I know at Vienna: they are dressed after the fashions there, after the manner that the people at Exeter imitate those of London; that is, their imitation is more excessive than the original: it is not easy to describe what extraordinary figures they make. The person is so much lost between head-dress and petticoat, that they have as much occasion to write upon their backs, "*This is a woman,*" for the information of

TO THE COUN

Lei

I BELIEVE, dear sister, you not writing to you from I when I tell you, that I never from Prague to this place.

You may imagine how I twenty-four hours' post-travel refreshment (for I can never ever fatigued). We passed frightful precipices that divide, at the bottom of which

by the bright light of the moon, our postillions nodding on horseback, while the horses were on a full gallop: then, indeed, I thought it very convenient to call out to desire them to look where they were going. My calling waked Mr. Wortley, and he was much more surprised than myself at the situation we were in, and assured me, that he passed the Alps five times in different places, without ever having gone a road so dangerous. I have been told since, that it is common to find the bodices of travellers in the Elbe; but, thank God, that was not our destiny; and we came safe to Dresden, so much tired with fear and fatigue, it was not possible for me to compose myself to write.

After passing these dreadful rocks, Dresden appeared to me a wonderfully agreeable situation, in a fine large plain on the banks of the Elbe: I was very glad to stay there a day to rest myself. The town is the neatest I have seen in Germany; most of the houses are new built; the elector's palace is very handsome, and his repository full of curiosities of different kinds, with a collection of medals very much esteemed. Sir Robert Sutton, our king's envoy, came to see me here, and madame de L * * *, whom I knew in London, when her husband was minister to the king of Poland there: she offered me all things in her power to entertain me, and brought some ladies with her, whom she presented to me. The Saxon ladies resemble the Austrian no more than the Chinese do those of London; they are very genteelly dressed after the English and French modes, and have generally pretty faces, but *they are the most determined minaudieres in the whole world: they would think it a mortal sin*

the countess of Cozell
melancholy castle, some 1
I cannot forbear telling y
her, because it seems to
though I foresee I shall sw
of a packet.—She was m
Poland (elector of Saxony)
minion over him, that nev
power in that court. They t
majesty's first declaration of
a visit to her, bringing in or
dred thousand crowns, and in
which he snapped asunder b
her to draw the consequent
proofs of strength and liberal
charmed her most ; but she
husband, and to give hersel
being divorced nobly.

by long possession, his majesty began to reflect on the ill consequences of leaving such a paper in her hands, and desired to have it restored to him. But she rather chose to endure all the most violent effects of his anger, than give it up; and though she is one of the richest and most avaricious ladies of her country, she has refused the offer of the continuation of a large pension, and the security of a vast sum of money she has amassed; and has, at last, provoked the king to confine her person to a castle, where she endures all the terrors of a strait imprisonment, and remains still inflexible, either to threats or promises. Her violent passions have brought her indeed into fits which, it is supposed, will soon put an end to her life. I cannot forbear having some compassion for a woman that suffers for a point of honour, however mistaken, especially in a country where points of honour are not over-scrupulously observed among ladies.

I could have wished Mr. Wortley's business had permitted him a longer stay at Dresden.

Perhaps I am partial to a town where they profess the Protestant religion; but every thing seemed to me with quite another air of politeness than I have found in other places. Leipzig, where I am at present, is a town very considerable for its trade; and I take this opportunity of buying pages' liveries, gold stuffs for myself, &c. all things of that kind being at least double the price at Vienna; partly because of the excessive customs, and partly through want of genius and industry in the people, who make no one sort of thing there; so that the ladies are obliged to send even for their shoes, out of Saxony. The fair here is one of the most con-

you will willingly forgive me, you
made you the most exact descri
ravelins and bastions I see in my
swear you would ask me, What is
What is a bastion?

Adieu, n

XVII.

TO THE COUNTESS OF

Brunswick, Nov

I AM just come to Brunswick, a ve
which has the advantage of being t
duke of Wolfenbuttle's dominions,
speak of its ancient honours) illust
its former beauty and its site

(where I hope to be to-night), though I know you have more curiosity to hear of that place than any other.

XVIII.

TO THE COUNTESS OF BRISTOL.

Hanover, Nov. 25, O.S. 1716.

I RECEIVED your ladyship's letter but the day before I left Vienna, though, by the date, I ought to have had it much sooner; but nothing was ever worse regulated than the post in most parts of Germany. I can assure you the packet at Prague was behind my chaise, and in that manner conveyed to Dresden, so that the secrets of half the country were at my mercy, if I had any curiosity for them. I would not longer delay my thanks for yours, though the number of my acquaintances here, and my duty of attending at court, leave me hardly any time to dispose of. I am extremely pleased that I can tell you, without flattery or partiality, that our young prince* has all the accomplishments that it is possible to have at his age, with an air of sprightliness and understanding, and something so very engaging and easy in his behaviour, that he needs not the advantage of his rank to appear charming. I had the honour of a long conversation with him last night, before the king came in. His governor retired on purpose (as he told me afterwards) that I might make some

* The father of his present majesty.

court than that of St. James's. 'T
the goodness to appoint us a lodgin
it, without which we should hav
accommodated; for the vast num
crowds the town so much, it is v
get one sorry room in a miserable
to-day with the Portuguese ambassa
himself very happy to have two w
in an inn. I have now made the t
and cannot help observing a consid
between travelling here and in Eng
none of those fine seats of nobler
amongst us, nor any thing like a
man's house, though they have
perfectly fine. But the whole pe
into absolute sovereignties, wher
and magnificence are at court, or i
of merchants. such as Nuremburg

XIX.

TO THE LADY RICH.

Hanover, Oct. 1, O. S. 1716.

I AM very glad, my dear lady Rich, that you have been so well pleased, as you tell me, at the report of my returning to England; though, like other pleasures, I can assure you it has no real foundation. I hope you know me enough to take my word against any report concerning me. It is true, as to distance of place, I am much nearer to London than I was some weeks ago; but as to the thoughts of a return, I never was farther off in my life. I own, I could with great joy indulge the pleasing hopes of seeing you, and the very few others that share my esteem; but while Mr. Wortley is determined to proceed in his design, I am determined to follow him.

I am running on upon my own affairs, that is to say, I am going to write very dully, as most people do when they write of themselves. I will make haste to change the disagreeable subject, by telling you, that I am now got into the region of beauty. All the women have literally rosy cheeks, snowy foreheads and bosoms, jet eye-brows, and scarlet lips, to which they generally add coal-black hair. Those perfections never leave them till the hour of their deaths, and have a very fine effect by candle-light; but I could wish they were handsome with a little more variety: they resemble one another as

gin to slide about in their traineaux. Their favourite diversion all over Germany. These machines fixed upon a sledge, that horse and gentleman, and are drawn by one horse and gentleman has the honour of driving, and with a prodigious swiftness. The ladies and the traineau, are all as fine as made; and when there are many of them it is a very agreeable show. At Vienna pieces of magnificence are carried to are sometimes machines of this kind, or six hundred pounds English.

The duke of Wolfenbuttle is now as you know he is nearly related to our empress, who is, the most beautiful princess upon earth. With child, which is all the consolation to the imperial court, for the loss of the archduchess, my leave of her the day before I left she began to speak to me with so much

end of an only son, born after being so long desired, and at length killed by want of good management, weaning him in the begining of the winter.

Adieu, dear lady Rich ; continue to write to me, and believe none of your goodness is lost upon

Your, &c.

XX.

TO THE COUNTESS OF MAR.

Blankenburg, Oct. 17, O. S. 1716.

I RECEIVED yours, dear sister, the very day I left Hanover. You may easily imagine I was then in too great a hurry to answer it ; but you see I take the first opportunity of doing myself that pleasure.

I came here the 15th, very late at night, after a terrible journey, in the worst roads and weather that ever poor traveller suffered. I have taken this little fatigue merely to oblige the reigning empress, and carry a message from her imperial majesty to the duchess of Blankenburg, her mother, who is a princess of great address and good-breeding, and may be still called a fine woman. It was so late when I came to this town, I did not think it proper to disturb the duke and duchess with the news of my arrival ; so I took up my quarters in a miserable inn : but as soon as I had sent my compliments to their highnesses, they immediately sent me their own coach and six horses, which had however enough to do to draw us up the very high hill on which the castle is situated. The duchess is ex-

standing the language enough to
in it.

You will not forgive me, if I do
of Hanover; I cannot tell you that
large or magnificent. The opera
built by the late elector, is much
Vienna. I was very sorry that
not permit me to see Herhausen
but, in spite of the snow, I thought
very fine. I was particularly struck
number of orange trees, much
have ever seen in England, though
certainly colder. But I had more
that night at the king's table, to
a gentleman of this country, of
full of ripe oranges and lemons
many of which were quite new to
thought worth all the rest, two
to my taste, are a fruit perfect
know they are naturally the growth
could not imagine how they came

very nearly the same ; I am surprised we do not practise in England so useful an invention.

This reflection leads me to consider our obstinacy in shaking with cold five months in the year, rather than make use of stoves, which are certainly one of the greatest conveniences of life. Besides, they are so far from spoiling the form of a room, that they add very much to the magnificence of it, when they are painted and gilt, as they are at Vienna, or at Dresden, where they are often in the shapes of china jars, statues, or fine cabinets, so naturally represented, that they are not to be distinguished. If ever I return, in defiance to the fashion, you shall certainly see one in the chamber of,

Dear sister, your, &c.

I will write often, since you desire it : but I must beg you to be a little more particular in yours ; you fancy me at forty miles distance, and forget that, after so long an absence, I cannot understand hints.

XXI.

TO THE LADY RICH.

Vienna, Jan. 1, O. S. 1717.

I HAVE just received here at Vienna, your ladyship's compliments on my return to England, sent me from Hanover.

You see, madam, all things that are asserted with confidence are not absolutely true ; and that you have no sort of reason to complain of me for making

... to the greatest height, which is never permitted the Turks. The balls are the men pay a gold ducat ladies nothing. I am told sometimes a thousand ducat very magnificently furnished if they had not that detestable hunting horns with it, that pany. But that noise is so never make a concert without ways concludes with English the number of thirty or forty danced, that there is very little. They know but half a dozen, them over and over these fifty have taught them some new would be some months' labor to apprehend them.

Last night there was an Italian court. The scenes were presented

men dressed like them were such awkward figures, they very much added to the ridicule of the spectacle. What completed the diversion, was the excessive cold, which was so great, I thought I should have died there.

It is now the very extremity of the winter here ; the Danube is entirely frozen, and the weather not to be supported without stoves and furs ; but, however, the air is so clear, almost every body is well, and colds not half so common as in England. I am persuaded there cannot be a purer air, nor more wholesome, than that of Vienna. The plenty and excellence of all sorts of provisions are greater here than in any place I ever was before, and it is not very expensive to keep a splendid table. It is really a pleasure to pass through the markets, and see the abundance of what we should think rarities, of fowls and venison, that are daily brought in from Hungary and Bohemia. They want nothing but shell-fish, and are so fond of oysters, that they have them sent from Venice, and eat them very greedily, stink or not stink.

Thus I obey your commands, madam, in giving you an account of Vienna, though I know you will not be satisfied with it. You chide me for my laziness, in not telling you a thousand agreeable and surprising things, that you say you are sure I have seen and heard. Upon my word, madam, it is my regard to truth, and not laziness, that I do not entertain you with as many prodigies as other travellers use to divert their readers with. I might easily pick up wonders in every town I pass through, or tell you a long series of popish miracles ; but I can-

countess such a one? Would you have
novels like the countess of D****? :
better to tell you a plain truth,
That |

XXII.

TO THE COUNTESS OF MA

Vienna, Jan. 16

I AM now, dear sister, to take leave of
long time, and of Vienna for ever ; to-
morrow to begin my journey through
spite of the excessive cold, and deep snows
are enough to damp a greater courage
mistress of. But my principles of *passion*
carry me through every thing.

I have had my audience of leave of.
His imperial majesty was pleased to
when I waited on the reigning empress
a most obliging conversation both to

much to stay ; and when I left her, engaged me to write to her.

I wrote you a long letter from thence, which I hope you have received, though you do not mention it ; but I believe I forgot to tell you one curiosity in all the German courts, which I cannot forbear taking notice of : all the princes keep favourite dwarfs. The emperor and empress have two of these little monsters, as ugly as devils, especially the female ; but they are all bedaubed with diamonds, and stand at her majesty's elbow, in all public places. The duke of Wolfenbuttle has one, and the duchess of Blankenburg is not without hers, but indeed the most proportionable I ever saw. I am told the king of Denmark has so far improved upon this fashion, that his dwarf is his chief minister. I can assign no reason for their fondness for these pieces of deformity, but the opinion all the absolute princes have, that it is below them to converse with the rest of mankind ; and, not to be quite alone, they are forced to seek their companions among the refuse of human nature, these creatures being the only part of their court privileged to talk freely to them.

I am at present confined to my chamber by a sore throat ; and am really glad of the excuse, to avoid seeing people that I love well enough to be very much mortified when I think I am going to part with them for ever. It is true, the Austrians are not commonly the most polite people in the world, nor the most agreeable. But Vienna is inhabited by all nations, and I had formed to myself a little society of such as were perfectly to my own taste.

ever pick up, as
reasonable, agreeable peo-
ple, always together, and you know a
few that one esteems, is the greatest happiness
of life.

Here are some Spaniards of both sexes, tho'
all the vivacity and generosity of sentiments a-
re ascribed to their nation; and could I be-
lieve the whole kingdom were like them, I wou-
ld be nothing more than to end my days there. I
of my acquaintance have so much goodne-
ss they cry whenever they see me, since I ha-
ve determined to undertake this journey. And
I am not very easy when I reflect on what
some new difficulty. Prince Eugene
is good as to say all the things he can
me to stay till the Danube is thawed
have the conveniency of going by
that the houses in Hungary are
fast the weather; and
or four

ing the advantage of seeing him very often ; as unwilling to speak of him at Vienna, as be to talk of Hercules in the court of ;, if I had seen him there. I do not know effort other people find in considering the s of great men (because, perhaps, it brings er to their level), but it is always a mortification to me, to observe that there is no perfection ility. The young prince of Portugal is the on of the whole court ; he is handsome and ith a great vivacity. All the officers tell of his gallantry the last campaign. He is t court with all the honours due to his dieu, dear sister : this is the last account have from me of Vienna. If I survive my you shall hear from me again. I can say, at truth, in the words of Moneses, " I have ned to hold myself as nothing ;" but when f the fatigue my poor infant must suffer, f a mother's fondness in my eyes, and all her ssions in my heart.

I have written a letter to my lady * * * *, lieve she will not like ; and, upon cooler , I think I had done better to have let it ut I was downright peevish at all her quesd her ridiculous imagination that I have seen abundance of wonders which I keep f out of mere malice. She is very angry ll not lie like other travellers. I verily be-expects I should tell her of the *Anthropo-* m whose heads grow below their shoulders ; pray say something to pacify her.

IF you must go from us
pass to your banishment
might all your road be
thousand objects rise round
to make England less des-
madam, your native count
justify your regret for it :
it with tears in my eyes
place my country, where I
ternal earth my own. In
alleviation, that when the
to leave my country, that w
in it should be taken from
could overtake you with
took that way), and make
pany. Every reasonable en-
ful view would be doubl
talked of it. I should at
sea-coast, and cast a last
transported you, if I liked
it. But I shall

In good earnest, if I knew your motions towards Italy (on the supposition you go that course), and your exact time, I verily think I shall be once more happy in a sight of you next spring. I will conclude with a wish, God send you with us, or me with you.

By what I have seen of Monsieur Rousseau's works, I should envy you his conversation. But I am sure I envy him yours.

Mr. Addison has not had one epithalamium that I can hear of, and must even be reduced, like a poorer and a better poet, Spenser, to make his own.

Mr. Congreve is entirely yours, and has writ twice to you ; he is not in town, but well. I am in great health, and sit up all night ; a just reward for a fever I just come out of, that kept me in bed seven days.

How may I send a large bundle to you ?

I beg you will put dates to your letters ; they are not long enough.

I might be dead, or you in Yorkshire, for any thing that I am the better for your being in town : I have been sick ever since I saw you last, and have now a swelled face, and very bad ; nothing will do me so much good as the sight of dear lady Mary ; when you come this way let me see you, for indeed I love you.

A. POPE.



I HAVE not time to a
hurry of preparing
ought to bid adieu
solemnity as if I wa
least, if I am to believ
ple here, who denoun
and, indeed, the weat
few ever set out in.
time, with being fro
snow, and taken by t
part of Hungary I am
have a considerable *esc*
be diverted with a new
the midst of a battle.

How my adventures
tirely to Providence; if
them. Pray be so goo
I have received his let
if I live I will answer it.
my best wish

XXV.

TO THE COUNTESS OF MAR.

Peterwaradin, Jan. 30, O. S. 1717.

At length, dear sister, I am safely arrived, with all my family, in good health, at Peterwaradin; having suffered so little from the rigour of the season (against which we were well provided by furs), and found such tolerable accommodation every where, by the care of sending before, that I can hardly forbear laughing when I recollect all the frightful ideas that were given me of this journey. These, I see, were wholly owing to the tenderness of my Vienna friends, and their desire of keeping me with them for this winter.

Perhaps it will not be disagreeable to you to give a short journal of my journey, being through a country entirely unknown to you, and very little passed even by the Hungarians themselves, who generally choose to take the conveniency of going down the Danube. We have had the blessing of being favoured with finer weather than is common at this time of the year; though the snow was so deep, we were obliged to have our own coaches fixed upon traineaux, which move so swift and so easily, it is by far the most agreeable manner of travelling post. We came to Raab (the second day from Vienna) on the seventeenth instant, where Mr. Wortley sending word of our arrival to the governor, the best house in the town was provided for

susing, as being resolved to
sent us several baskets of wine
variety of Hungarian wines,
killed. This is a prelate's
country, of the ancient family
derable for many ages in the
very polite, agreeable, cheerful
the Hungarian habit, with a
down to his girdle.

Raab is a strong town, well g
and was a long time the f
the Turkish and German em
from the river Rab, on which
its meeting with the Danube
paign country. It was first
under the command of pash
of sultan Amurath III. in the
and ninety-four. The govern
have betrayed it, was afterw
emperor's command. The
enburg and Palfi retook it by

Leaving Comora on the other side the river, we went the eighteenth to Nosinubl, a small village, where, however, we made shift to find tolerable accommodation. We continued two days travelling between this place and Buda, through the finest plains in the world, as even as if they were paved, and extremely fruitful; but for the most part desert and uncultivated, laid waste by the long wars between the Turk and the emperor, and the more cruel civil war occasioned by the barbarous persecution of the Protestant religion by the emperor Leopold. That prince has left behind him the character of an extraordinary piety, and was naturally of a mild merciful temper; but, putting his conscience into the hands of a Jesuit, he was more cruel and treacherous to his poor Hungarian subjects than ever the Turk has been to the Christians; breaking, without scruple, his coronation oath, and his faith, solemnly given in many public treaties. Indeed, nothing can be more melancholy than, in travelling through Hungary, to reflect on the former flourishing state of that kingdom, and to see such a noble spot of earth almost uninhabited. Such are also the present circumstances of Buda (where we arrived very early the twenty-second), once the royal seat of the Hungarian kings, whose palace was reckoned one of the most beautiful buildings of the age, now wholly destroyed, no part of the town having been repaired since the last siege, but the fortifications and the castle, which is the present residence of the governor-general Regule, an officer of great merit. He came immediately to see us, and carried us in his coach to his house, where

the houses, or rather
town, being altogether inhabited by that
The governor assured me, it would furnish
thousand fighting men. These towns lo
odd; their houses stand in rows, many th
of them so close together, that they appe
little distance, like old-fashioned thatcher
They consist, every one of them, of one hov
and another under ground; these are their
and winter apartments. Buda was first t
Solyman the Magnificent, in 1526, and los
lowing year to Ferdinand I. king of Bohem
lyman regained it by the treachery of the
and voluntarily gave it into the hands of k
of Hungary; after whose death, his son
infant, Ferdinand laid siege to it, and th
mother was forced to call Solyman to her
indeed raised the siege, but left a Turkish
in the town, and commanded her to re
court from thence, which she was forced
to in 1541. It resisted afterwards the sie
of Brandenburg in the

Roman bravery. The loss of this town was so important, and so much resented by the Turks, that it occasioned the deposing of their emperor Mahomet IV. the year following.

We did not proceed on our journey till the twenty-third, when we passed through Adam and Todowar, both considerable towns when in the hands of the Turks, but now quite ruined. The remains, however, of some Turkish towns show something of what they have been. This part of the country is very much overgrown with wood, and little frequented. It is incredible what vast numbers of wild-fowl we saw, which often live here to a good old age, — and, *undisturbed by guns, in quiet sleep*. We came the five-and-twentieth to Mohatch, and were showed the field near it, where Lewis, the young king of Hungary, lost his army and his life, being drowned in a ditch, trying to fly from Balybeus, general of Solyman the Magnificent. This battle opened the first passage for the Turks into the heart of Hungary. I do not name to you the little villages, of which I can say nothing remarkable; but, I will assure you, I have always found a warm stove, and great plenty, particularly of wild boar, venison, and all kinds of *gibier*. The few people that inhabit Hungary live easily enough; they have no money, but the woods and plains afford them provision in great abundance: they were ordered to give us all things necessary, even what horses we pleased to demand, *gratis*; but Mr. Wortley would not oppress the poor country people by making use of this order, and always paid them to the full worth of what he had. They

you may easily imagine this
ters; and thus they have ve
money.

The twenty-sixth, we pas
Danube, with all our equipag
met on the other side gener
vited us, with great civility,
a little castle of his, a few mil
should have a very hard day
Essek. This we found but
being very dangerous, and sca
the vast quantity of wolves tha
came, however, safe, though
we staid a day, to despatch a co
the pashá of Belgrade; and I to
of seeing the town, which is
fair built, and well fortified.
great trade, very rich and pop
hands of the Turks. It is sit
which runs into the Danube.
esteemed one of the most ex

hands it has remained ever since, and is esteemed one of the bulwarks of Hungary.

The twenty-eighth, we went to Bocorwar, a very large Rascian town, all built after the manner I have described to you. We were met there by colonel —, who would not suffer us to go any where but to his quarters, where I found his wife, a very agreeable Hungarian lady, and his niece and daughter, two pretty young women, crowded into three or four Rascian houses cast into one, and made as neat and convenient as those places are capable of being made. The Hungarian ladies are much handsomer than those of Austria. All the Vienna beauties are of that country; they are generally very fair and well-shaped, and their dress, I think, is extremely becoming. This lady was in a gown of scarlet velvet, lined and faced with sables, made exact to her shape, and the skirt falling to her feet. The sleeves are strait to their arms, and the stays buttoned before, with two rows of little buttons of gold, pearl or diamonds. On their heads they wear a tassel of gold, that hangs low on one side, lined with sable, or some other fine fur. They gave us a handsome dinner, and I thought the conversation very polite and agreeable. They would accompany us part of our way.

The twenty-ninth, we arrived here, where we were met by the commanding officer, at the head of all the officers of the garrison. We are lodged in the best apartment of the governor's house, and entertained in a very splendid manner by the emperor's order. We wait here till all points are adjusted, concerning our reception on the Turkish

Belgrade. we shall stay here till
answer.

Thus, dear sister, I have given you
cular, and (I am afraid you will think
account of this part of my travels.
affectation of showing my reading,
me tell you some little scraps of the
towns I have passed through; I have
any thing of that kind, when I spoke
I believe you knew the story of as well
But Hungary being a part of the world
believe, is quite new to you, I thought
read with some pleasure an account
have been very solicitous to get from
hands. However, if you do not lend
your power to forbear reading it. I
ter, &c.

I am promised to have this letter carried
Vienna.

XXVI.

MR. POPE TO LADY MONTAGU.

MADAM,

I NO more think I can have too many of your letters, than that I could have too many writings to entitle me to the greatest estate in the world; which I think so valuable a friendship as yours is equal to. I am angry at every scrap of paper lost, as at something that interrupts the history of my title; and though it is but an odd compliment to compare a fine lady to Sybil, your leaves, methinks, like her's, are too good to be committed to the winds; though I have no other way of receiving them but by those unfaithful messengers. I have had but three, and I reckon in that a short one from Dort, which was rather a dying ejaculation than a letter. But I have so great an opinion of your goodness, that had I received none, I should not have accused you of neglect or insensibility. I am not so wrong-headed as to quarrel with my friends the minute they do not write; I would as soon quarrel at the sun the minute he did not shine, which he is hindered from by accidental causes, and is in reality all that time performing the same course, and doing the same good offices as ever.

You have contrived to say in your last the two most pleasing things to me in nature; the first is, that, whatever be the fate of your letters, you will

The other is, the justice you do what I writ to you in the serious : meant : it is the point upon which suspicion, and in which, above all, thought serious : it would be the : of all tyranny, if you should preter raillery, what is the mere disguise of heart, that is unwilling to make you as itself ; and for wit, what is real tural overflowing and warmth of th as it is improved and awakened by you : but, since you tell me you fancy my expressions have not at least unfaithful to those thoughts, to w they can never be equal. May Go faith in all truths that are as great : pend upon it, to whatever degree extend, you can never be a bigot.

If you could see the heart I tell really think it a foolish good kind some qualities as well deserving to

only with my own goods, with vast empty spaces to be supplied as fast as interest or ambition can fill them up; but it is every inch of it let out into lodgings for its friends, and shall never want a corner at your service; where I dare affirm, madam, your idea lies as warm and as close as any idea in Christendom.

If I do not take care, I shall write myself all out to you; and if this correspondence continues on both sides at the free rate I would have it, we shall have very little curiosity to encourage our meeting at the day of judgment. I foresee that the further you go from me, the more freely I shall write: and if (as I earnestly wish) you would do the same, I cannot guess where it will end: let us be like modest people, who, when they are close together, keep all decorums; but if they step a little aside, or get to the other end of a room, can untie garters or take off shifts without scruple.

If this distance (as you are so kind as to say) enlarges your belief of my friendship, I assure you it has so extended my notion of your value, that I begin to be impious on your account, and to wish that even slaughter, ruin, and desolation, might interpose between you and Turkey; I wish you restored to us at the expense of a whole people: I barely hope you will forgive me for saying this, but I fear God will scarce forgive me for desiring it.

Make me less wicked then. Is there no other expedient to return you and your infant in peace to the bosom of your country? I hear you are going to Hanover; can there be no favourable planet at this conjuncture, or do you only come back so far

and his negotiations abroad.

A. A.

XXVII.

TO MR. POPE.

Belgrade, Feb. 12, O. S. 1

I DID verily intend to write you a long letter Peterwaradin, where I expected to stay three or four days; but the pashá here was in such a hurry to see us, that he despatched the courier (which Mr. Wortley had sent to know the time when we would send the convoy to meet us) without giving him time to pull off his boots.

My letters were not thought important enough to stop our journey; and we left Peterwaradin next day, being waited on by the chief of the garrison, and a considerable convoy. The emperor has sev

gary. They have a patriarch of their own at Grand Cairo, and are really of the Greek church: but their extreme ignorance gives their priests occasion to impose several new notions upon them. These fellows, letting their hair and beard grow inviolate, make exactly the figure of the Indian bramins. They are heirs-general to all the money of the laity; for which, in return, they give them formal passports, signed and sealed for heaven; and the wives and children only inherit the house and cattle. In most other points they follow the Greek church.

This little digression has interrupted my telling you we passed over the fields of Carlowitz, where the last great victory was obtained by prince Eugene over the Turks. The marks of that glorious bloody day are yet recent, the field being yet strewed with the skulls and carcasses of unburied men, horses, and camels. I could not look, without horror, on such numbers of mangled human bodies, nor without reflecting on the injustice of war, that makes murder not only necessary, but meritorious. Nothing seems to be a plainer proof of the *irrationality* of mankind (whatever fine claims we pretend to reason) than the rage with which they contest for a small spot of ground, when such vast parts of fruitful earth lie quite uninhabited. It is true, custom has now made it unavoidable; but can there be a greater demonstration of want of reason, than a custom being firmly established, so plainly contrary to the interest of man in general? I am a good deal inclined to believe Mr. Hobbes, that the *state of nature* is a *state of war*; but

thence I conclude human nature not rational, if the word reason means common sense, as I suppose it does. I have a great many admirable arguments to support this reflection; I will not, however, trouble you with them, but return, in a plain style, to the history of my travels.

We were met at Betsko (a village in the midway between Belgrade and Peterwaradin) by an aga of the janisaries, with a body of Turks, exceeding the Germans by one hundred men, though the pashá had engaged to send exactly the same number. You may judge by this of their fears. I am really persuaded, that they hardly thought the odds of one hundred men set them even with the Germans: however, I was very uneasy till they were parted, fearing some quarrel might arise, notwithstanding the parole given.

We came late to Belgrade, the deep snows making the ascent to it very difficult. It seems a strong city, fortified on the east side by the Danube, and on the south by the river Save, and was formerly the barrier of Hungary. It was first taken by Solyman the Magnificent, and since by the emperor's forces, led by the elector of Bavaria. The emperor held it only two years, it being retaken by the grand vizier. It is now fortified with the utmost care and skill the Turks are capable of, and strengthened by a very numerous garrison of their bravest janisaries, commanded by a pashá seraskiér (*i. e.* general), though this last expression is not very just; for, to say truth, the seraskiér is commanded by the janisaries. These troops have an absolute authority here, and their conduct carries much

more the aspect of rebellion than the appearance of subordination. You may judge of this by the following story, which, at the same time, will give you an idea of the *admirable* intelligence of the governor of Peterwaradin, though so few hours distant. We were told by him at Peterwaradin, that the garrison and inhabitants of Belgrade were so weary of the war, they had killed their pashá about two months ago, in a mutiny, because he had suffered himself to be prevailed upon, by a bribe of five purses (five hundred pounds sterling) to give permission to the Tartars to ravage the German frontiers. We were very well pleased to hear of such favourable dispositions in the people; but when we came hither, we found that the governor had been ill-informed, and the real truth of the story to be this. The late pashá fell under the displeasure of his soldiers, for no other reason but restraining their incursions on the Germans. They took it into their heads, from that mildness, that he had intelligence with the enemy, and sent such information to the grand signior at Adrianople; but, redress not coming quick enough from thence, they assembled themselves in a tumultuous manner, and, by force, dragged their pashá before the cadi and mufti, and there demanded justice in a mutinous way; one crying out, Why he protected the infidels? another, Why he squeezed them of their money? The pashá, easily guessing their purpose, calmly replied to them, that they asked him too many questions, and that he had but one life, which must answer for all. They then immediately fell upon him with their scimitars (without waiting the

not un-
ne affected to app-
fellows, that knew how to
He takes all pretences of throwing
the garrison, and suffers them to make little ex-
ursions into Hungary, where they burn some poor
Rascian houses.

You may imagine, I cannot be very easy in
town which is really under the government of
insolent soldiery. We expected to be immedi-
dismissed, after a night's lodging here: but
pashá detains us till he receives orders from Ad-
ople, which may possibly be a month a-
In the mean time, we are lodged in one of the
houses, belonging to a very considerable
amongst them, and have a whole chamber-
naries to guard us. My only diversion is
versation of our host, Achmet Bey, a tri-
thing like that of count in Germany. He
was a great pashá, and he has been educa-
most polite eastern learning, being perfe-
the Arabic and Persian languages, and
which they call *effendi*
to the great

numbers not unlike ours, generally of an alternate verse, and of a very musical sound. Their expressions of love are very passionate and lively. I am so much pleased with them, I really believe I should learn to read Arabic, if I was to stay here a few months. He has a very good library of their books of all kinds; and, as he tells me, spends the greatest part of his life there. I pass for a great scholar with him, by relating to him some of the Persian tales, which I find are genuine.* At first he believed I understood Persian. I have frequent disputes with him concerning the difference of our customs, particularly the confinement of women. He assures me, there is nothing at all in it; only, says he, we have the advantage, that when our wives cheat us nobody knows it. He has wit, and is more polite than many Christian men of quality. I am very much entertained with him. He has had the curiosity to make one of our servants set him an alphabet of our letters, and can already write a good Roman hand.

But these amusements do not hinder my wishing heartily to be out of this place; though the weather is colder than I believe it ever was any where but in Greenland. We have a very large stove constantly kept hot, and yet the windows of the room are frozen on the inside. God knows when I may have an opportunity of sending this letter:

* The Persian Tales appeared first in Europe as a translation, by Monsieur Petit de la Croix; and what are called "The Arabian Nights," in a similar manner, by Monsieur Galland.

NTAGU'S LETTERS.

for the discharge of my own cannot now reproach me, that en of mine. Adieu.

XXVIII.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES.*

Adrianople, April 1, O. S. 1717.

I, finished a journey that has a by any Christian since the perors; and I shall not regret e suffered in it, if it gives me musing your royal highness by utterly unknown amongst us; sadors, and those few English er, always going on the Danube he river was now frozen, and zealous for the service of his ould not defer his journey to ency of that passage.

deserts of Servia, almost quite d, through a country naturally tants are industrious; but the peasants is so great, they are heir houses, and neglect their e being a prey to the janisarie e to seize upon it. We b d of them, and I was alr

late queen Caroline.

lears every day to see their insolencies in the poor villages through which we passed.

After seven days' travelling through thick woods, we came to Nissa, once the capital of Servia, situated in a fine plain on the river Nissava, in a very good air, and so fruitful a soil, that the great plenty is hardly credible. I was certainly assured, that the quantity of wine last vintage was so prodigious, that they were forced to dig holes in the earth to put it in, not having vessels enough in the town to hold it. The happiness of this plenty is scarcely perceived by the oppressed people. I saw here a new occasion for my compassion; the wretches that had provided twenty waggons for our baggage from Belgrade hither for a certain hire, being all sent back without payment, some of their horses lamed, and others killed, without any satisfaction made for them. The poor fellows came round the house weeping and tearing their hair and beards in a most pitiful manner, without getting any thing but drubs, from the insolent soldiers. I cannot express to your royal highness how much I was moved at this scene. I would have paid them the money out of my own pocket, with all my heart; but it would only have been giving so much to the aga, who would have taken it from them without any remorse.

After four days' journey from this place over the mountains, we came to Sophia, situated in a large beautiful plain on the river Isea, and surrounded with distant mountains. It is hardly possible to see a more agreeable landscape. The city itself is very large, and extremely populous. Here are hot

lippor.
the mountains are
always covered with snow.
on a rising ground near the river and
almost wholly inhabited by the Greeks: here
still some ancient Christian churches. They have
a bishop; and several of the richest Greeks live
here: but they are forced to conceal their wealth
with great care, the appearance of poverty (which
includes part of its inconveniences) being all
security against feeling it in earnest. The country
from hence to Adrianople is the finest in the
Vines grow wild on all the hills; and the people
spring they enjoy makes every thing gay and
rushing. But this climate, happy as it seems
never be preferred to England, with all its
and snows, while we are blessed with an
vernment, under a king who makes his peo-
piness consist in the liberty of his people
chooses rather to be looked upon as a slave
than their master.

This theme would carry me very far
I have already tired out your
that my letter is in
as y

XXIX.

TO THE LADY RICH.

Adrianople, April 1, O. S. 1717.

AM now got into a new world, where every thing new appears to me a change of scene; and I write to your ladyship with some content of mind, hoping, at least, that you will find the charms of novelty in my letters, and no longer reproach me, that I tell you nothing extraordinary.

I will not trouble you with a relation of our tedious journey; but must not omit what I saw remarkable at Sophia, one of the most beautiful towns in the Turkish empire, and famous for its hot baths, that are resorted to both for diversion and health. I stopped here one day on purpose to see them; and designing to go *incognito*, I hired a Turkish coach. These voitures are not at all like ours, but much more convenient for the country, the heat being so great that glasses would be very troublesome. They are made a good deal in the manner of the Dutch stage coaches, having wooden attics painted and gilded; the inside being also painted with baskets and nosegays of flowers, intermixed commonly with little poetical mottoes. They are covered all over with scarlet cloth, lined with silk, and very often richly embroidered and fringed: this covering entirely hides the persons in them, but may be thrown back at pleasure, and

with no windows but in the roof, which was
enough. There were five of these domes
together, the outmost being less than the
others, serving only as a hall, where the portress
stood to open the door. Ladies of quality generally
paid a woman a crown or ten shillings; and
forgot that ceremony. The next room was
a large one paved with marble, and all around
it were two raised sofas of marble, one above
the other. There were four fountains of cold water in
this room, falling first into marble basins,
then running on the floor in little channels
for that purpose, which carried the stream
into the next room, something less than this,
with the same sort of marble sofas, but so hot with
the vapour of sulphur proceeding from the baths joined
to it, it was impossible to stay there with one
on : the two other domes were the hot
baths, of which had two cocks of cold water to
mix it, to temper it to what degree of warmth
bathers please to have.

LADY MONTAGU'S LETTERS.

have behaved themselves in so polite a mann such a stranger. I believe, upon the whole, t were two hundred women, and yet none of t disdainful smiles and satirical whispers, that i fail in our assemblies when any body appears is not dressed exactly in the fashion. They peated over and over to me, "Guzél, péc gu: which is nothing but " Charming, very charmi The first sofas were covered with cushions and carpets, on which sat the ladies ; and on the se their slaves behind them, but without any dis tion of rank by their dress, all being in the of nature, that is, in plain English, stark na without any beauty or defect concealed. Yet t was not the least wanton smile or immodest ture among them : they walked and moved the same majestic grace which Milton desc: our general mother with. There were 1 amongst them as exactly proportioned as ever goddess was drawn by the pencil of a Guid Titian,—and most of their skins shiiningly w only adorned by their beautiful hair divided many tresses, hanging on their shoulders, br either with pearl or ribbon, perfectly represer the figures of the Graces.

I was here convinced of the truth of a refle I have often made, " That if it were the fashi go naked, the face would be hardly observed. perceived that the ladies of the most delicate and finest shapes had the greatest share of m: miration, though their faces were sometimes beautiful than those of their companions. To tel the truth, I had wickedness enough to wish sec

usually pretty good

employed in braiding their hair
fancies. In short, it is the place
where all the news of the town
is vented, &c.—They generally
come once a week, and stay there
hours, without getting cold by
coming out of the hot bath into the cold
very surprising to me. The most
considerable among them
was by her, and would fain have
bath: I excused myself with
being, however, all so earnest
was at last forced to open
them my stays, which satisfied
I saw, they believed I was
machine, and that it was not in
it, which contrivance they
I was charmed with their
should have been very glad to
them; but Mr. Wortley re-

journey next morning early, I was in haste to see the ruins of Justinian's church, which did not afford me so agreeable a prospect as I had left, being little more than a heap of stones.

Adieu, madam : I am sure I have now entertained you with an account of such a sight as you never saw in your life, and what no book of travels could inform you of, as it is no less than death for a man to be found in one of these places.

XXX.

TO THE ABBOT * * * .

Adrianople, April 1, O. S. 1717.

You see that I am very exact in keeping the promise you engaged me to make. I know not, however, whether your curiosity will be satisfied with the accounts I shall give you, though I can assure you, the desire I have to oblige you to the utmost of my power has made me very diligent in my inquiries and observations. It is certain we have but very imperfect accounts of the manners and religion of these people; this part of the world being seldom visited but by merchants, who mind little but their own affairs; or travellers, who make too short a stay to be able to report any thing exactly of their own knowledge. The Turks are too proud to converse familiarly with merchants, who can only pick up some confused informations, which are generally false; and can give no better account of the ways here, than a French refugee, lodging in a

pany, so that we had
secure us ; and the vill
force could extort from
Indeed, the janisaries h
verty, killing all the po
find, without asking to v
the wretched owners du
for fear of being beaten.
and turkeys big with e
distinction ! I fancied
Melibœus for the hope of
travel, it is yet worse.
content with eating all th
to the peasants ; after t
selves and their numero
impudence to exact wha
contribution for the use
doing them the honour
This is literally and exac
gant it may seem ; and si
tion of a mill.

priest being the same word in the Turkish language. They are the only men really considerable in the empire; all the profitable employments and church revenues are in their hands. The grand-signior, though general heir to his people, never presumes to touch their lands or money, which go, in an uninterrupted succession, to their children. It is true, they lose this privilege by accepting a place at court, or the title of pashá; but there are few examples of such fools among them. You may easily judge of the power of these men, who have engrossed all the learning; and almost all the wealth of the empire: they are the real authors, though the soldiers are the actors of revolutions. They deposed the late sultan Mustapha; and their power is so well known, that it is the emperor's interest to flatter them.

This is a long digression. I was going to tell you that an intimate daily conversation with the effendi Achmet Bey, gave me an opportunity of knowing their religion and morals in a more particular manner than, perhaps, any Christian ever did. I explained to him the difference between the religion of England and Rome; and he was pleased to hear there were Christians that did not worship images, or adore the Virgin Mary. The ridicule of transubstantiation appeared very strong to him.— Upon comparing our creeds together, I am convinced that if our friend Dr. * * * had free liberty of preaching here, it would be very easy to persuade the generality to Christianity, whose notions are very little different from his. Mr. Whiston would make a very good apostle here. I do not doubt but his zeal will be much fired, if you communicate this

account to him; but tell him, he must first have the gift of tongues, before he can possibly be of any use.

Mahometism is divided into as many sects as Christianity; and the first institution as much neglected and obscured by interpretations. I cannot here forbear reflecting on the natural inclination of mankind to make mysteries and novelties. —The Zeidi, Kudi, Jabari, &c. put me in mind of the Catholics, Lutherans, and Calvinists, and are equally zealous against one another. But the most prevailing opinion, if you search into the secret of the effendis, is plain deism. This is, indeed, kept from the people, who are amused with a thousand different notions, according to the different interest of their preachers. —There are very few amongst them (Achmet Bey denied there were any) so absurd, as to set up for wit by declaring they believe no God at all: and sir Paul Rycant is mistaken (as he commonly is) in calling the sect *muterin** (i. e. *the secret with us*;) Atheists, they being Deists, whose impiety consists in making a jest of their prophet. Achmet Bey did not own to me that he was of this opinion; but made no scruple of deviating from some part of Mahomet's law, by drinking wine with the same freedom we did. When I asked him how he came to allow himself that liberty? he made answer, that all the creatures of God are good, and de-

* See D'Ohaon, *Tableau Général de l'Empire Ottoman*; 5 vols. 8vo. 1791, in which the religious code of the Mohammedans, and of each sect, is very satisfactorily detailed.

or the use of man ; however, that the pro-
of wine was a very wise maxim, and meant
common people, being the source of all dis-
among them ; but that the prophet never
to confine those that knew how to use it
deration : nevertheless, he said, that scan-
it to be avoided, and that he never drank it
2. This is the general way of thinking
them, and very few forbear drinking wine
able to afford it. He assured me, that if I
ood Arabic, I should be very well pleased
ding the Alcoran, which is so far from the
e we charge it with, that it is the purest
, delivered in the very best language. I
ce heard impartial Christians speak of it in
ie manner ; and I do not doubt but that
translations are from copies got from the
riests, who would not fail to falsify it with
emity of malice. No body of men ever were
morant, or more corrupt : yet they differ so
om the Romish church, that, I confess,
gives me a greater abhorrence of the
of your clergy, than the barbarous persecu-
them, whenever they have been their mas-
no other reason than their not acknow-
the pope. The dissenting in that one ar-
got them the titles of heretics and schism-
and, what is worse, the same treatment.
at Philippopolis a sect of Christians that
nselves Paulines. They show an old church,
they say, St. Paul preached ; and he is their
e saint, after the same manner that St.
at Rome ; neither do they forget to give

still retain the courage ---

have lost the name of Macedonians, be militia in the Turkish empire, and the upon the janisaries. They are foot s had a guard of them, relieved in every town we passed : they are all clothed at their own expense, dressed in clean cloth, carrying guns of a prodigious length they run with upon their shoulders and not feel the weight of them, the lead sort of rude tune, not unpleasant, and making up the chorus. These people between Christians and Mahometans, and skilled in controversy, declare, that they are unable to judge which religion is best, and certain of not entirely rejecting the truth, prudently follow both. They go to the mosque on Fridays, and to the church on Sundays, their excuse, that at the day of judgment they are sure of protection from the true religion, which that is, they are not able to

the Roman. I know you equally condemn the quackery of all churches, as much as you revere the sacred truths, in which we both agree.

You will expect I should say something to you of the antiquities of this country; but there are few remains of ancient Greece. We passed near the piece of an arch, which is commonly called Trajan's Gate, from a supposition that he made it to shut up the passage over the mountains between Sophia and Philippopolis. But I rather believe it the remains of some triumphal arch (though I could not see any inscription;) for if that passage had been shut up, there are many others that would serve for the march of an army; and, notwithstanding the story of Baldwin earl of Flanders being overthrown in these straits, after he won Constantinople, I do not fancy the Germans would find themselves stopped by them at this day. It is true, the road is now made (with great industry) as commodious as possible, for the march of the Turkish army; there is not one ditch or puddle between this place and Belgrade that has not a large strong bridge of planks built over it: but the precipices are not so terrible as I had heard them represented. At these mountains we lay at the little village Klaskoi, wholly inhabited by Christians, as all the peasants of Bulgaria are. Their houses are nothing but little huts, raised of dirt baked in the sun: and they leave them, and fly into the mountains, some months before the march of the Turkish army, who would else entirely ruin them, by driving away their whole flocks. This precaution secures them in a sort of plenty; for, such vast tracts of land

out of a heavy complexion.

I have now told you all that
and perhaps more, relating to
I am at Constantinople, I will
curiosities, and then you shall

XXX

TO THE COUNTESSE

Adrian

As I never can forget the strict
commands, my first business
quire after the stuffs you ordered
without being able to find them.
The difference of the dress
so great, the same sort of the
castans and *manteaus*. How

nificence. The bride was conducted to her husband's house in very great splendour. She is widow of the late vizier, who was killed at Peterwaradin, though that ought rather to be called a contract than a marriage, since she never has lived with him; however, the greatest part of his wealth is hers. He had the permission of visiting her in the seraglio; and, being one of the handsomest men in the empire, had very much engaged her affections. When she saw this second husband, who is at least fifty, she could not forbear bursting into tears. He is indeed a man of merit, and the declared favourite of the sultan (which they call *mosáyp*); but that is not enough to make him pleasing in the eyes of a girl of thirteen.

The government here is entirely in the hands of the army: the grand-signior, with all his absolute power, is as much a slave as any of his subjects, and trembles at a janisary's frown. Here is, indeed, a much greater appearance of subjection than among us: a minister of state is not spoken to, but upon the knee; should a reflection on his conduct be dropped in a coffee-house (for they have spies every-where), the house would be razed to the ground, and perhaps the whole company put to the torture. No "huzzaing mobs, senseless pamphlets, and tavern disputes about politics;"

A consequential ill that freedom draws;
A bad effect,—but from a noble cause.

None of our harmless calling names! but when a minister here displeases the people, in three hours'

... and cares neither
favourite. This is the bl
absolute monarch upon
but his *will*.

I cannot help wishing,
that the parliament wou
of your passive-obedient
arbitrary government in
light, where it is hard to
people, or ministers, are
make many reflections on
madam, your own good se
you with better than I am

I went yesterday along
dress to see the grand sign
mosque. He was preceded
janisaries, with vast white
as also by the *spahis* and
(and horse guards), and th
are a very considerable b
different habits of fine liv

le velvet, lined with silver tissue, his horse by two slaves richly dressed. Next him the *ir-aga* (your ladyship knows this is the chief dian of the seraglio ladies), in a deep yellow (which suited very well to his black face), with sables. Last came his Sublimity himself, red in green lined with the fur of a black Muscovite fox, which is supposed worth a thousand sterling, and mounted on a fine horse, with attire embroidered with jewels. Six more horses caparisoned, were led after him; and two of principal courtiers bore, one his gold, and the other his silver coffee-pot, on a staff; another carried a silver stool on his head for him to sit on.

It would be too tedious to tell your ladyship the various dresses and turbans by which their rank is distinguished; but they were all extremely rich and gay, to the number of some thousands; so that, perhaps, there cannot be seen a more beautiful assemblage. The sultan appeared to us a handsome man of about forty, with something, however, more fire in his countenance, and his eyes very full and black. He happened to stop under the window where we stood, and (I suppose being told who we were) looked upon us very attentively, so that we had full leisure to consider him. The French ambassador agreed with me as to his good mien: I had seen that lady very often; she is young, and her conversation would be a great relief to me, if I could persuade her to live without those forms and ceremonies that make life so formal and tiresome. She is so delighted with her guards, her forty-two footmen, gentlemen ushers, &c. that

... interest makes us

I went with her the other
in an open gilt chariot, with
tendants, preceded by our
summoned the people to see
seen, nor ever perhaps would
Christian ambassadors at
ladyship may easily imagine
of spectators, but all silent
them had taken the liberties
strange sight, our janisaries
of falling on them with the
danger for so doing, being abo

These people, however, (I
have some good qualities; th
and faithful where they serve,
their business to fight for you
this I had a very pleasant inst
this side Philippopolis, where
domestic guards. I happened
for supper, upon which one of

cuse his not obeying my command; but, out of respect to me, he would not punish him but by my order. Accordingly, he came very gravely to me, to ask what should be done to him; adding, by way of compliment, that if I pleased he would bring me his head. This may give you some idea of the unlimited power of these fellows, who are all sworn brothers, and bound to revenge the injuries done to one another, whether at Cairo, Aleppo, or any part of the world. This inviolable league makes them so powerful, that the greatest man at court never speaks to them but in a flattering tone; and in Asia, any man that is rich is forced to enrol himself a janisary, to secure his estate.

But I have already said enough; and I dare swear, dear madam, that, by this time, it is a very comfortable reflection to you, that there is no possibility of your receiving such a tedious letter but once in six months; it is that consideration has given me the assurance of entertaining you so long, and will, I hope, plead the excuse of, dear madam,

Yours, &c.

I wish to God, de
in letting me know
globe, as I am ca
you by the accoun
worth your notice.
ing me over and ov
it may possibly be
does not present yo
me, that am in arre
all that seems very
fresh and sweet her
ticulars, and I will t
by giving you a full a
ties of this place, n
you more than a sig
in my Turkish habit
be of my opinion, tha
intend to send you my
accept of it here

his smock has wide sleeves, hanging half-way down the arm, and is closed at the neck with a diamond button; but the shape and colour of the same are very well to be distinguished through it. The *antery* is a waistcoat, made close to the shape, white and gold damask, with very long sleeves lining back, and fringed with deep gold fringe, and could have diamond or pearl buttons. My *caftan*, the same stuff with my drawers, is a robe exactly fitted to my shape, and reaching to my feet, with very long strait falling sleeves. Over this is a girdle, of about four fingers broad, which all that can afford it have entirely of diamonds or other precious stones; those who will not be at that expense, have it of exquisite embroidery on satin; but it must be fastened before with a clasp of diamonds. The *curdee* is a loose robe they throw on or put on according to the weather, being of a rich brocade (mine is green and gold), either lined with ermine or sables; the sleeves reach very little below the shoulders. The head-dress is composed of a cap, called *talpock*, which is in winter of fine velvet, embroidered with pearls or diamonds, and in summer of a light shining silver stuff. This is tied on one side of the head, hanging a little way down with a gold tassel, and bound on, either with a circle of diamonds (as I have seen several) or a rich embroidered handkerchief. On the other side of the head, the hair is laid flat; and here the ladies are at liberty to show their fancies; sometimes flowers, others a plume of heron's feathers, and, in short, what they please; but the most general fashion is a large *bouquet* of jewels, made like

of that kind
full length behind, unadorned
with pearl or ribbon, which is
quantity.

I never saw in my life so much
hair. In one lady's I have counted
ten of the tresses, all natural
owned, that every kind of beauty
here than with us. It is surprising
woman that is not very handsome
naturally the most beautiful complexion
and generally large black eyes.
with great truth, that the
(though I believe it the fairest
does not contain so many beauties
protection here. They generally
brows; and both Greeks and
tom of putting round their faces
that, at a distance, or by contrast
much to the blackness of their
our ladies would be overjoyed
to be visible by day.

ming, either the exemplary discretion or extreme stupidity of all the writers that have given accounts of them. It is very easy to see they have reality more liberty than we have. No woman, of what rank soever, is permitted to go into the streets without two *murlins*; one that covers her face all but her eyes, and another that hides the whole dress of her head, and hangs half way down her back. Their shapes are also wholly concealed by what they call a *serigee*, which no woman of any rank appears without; this has strait sleeves, that reach to their fingers-ends, and it laps all round the face, not unlike a riding-hood. In winter it is of cloth, and in summer of plain stuff or silk. You may guess then how effectually this disguises them, that there is no distinguishing the great lady from her slave. It is impossible for the most jealous husband to know his wife when he meets her; and no man dare touch or follow a woman in the street.

This perpetual masquerade gives them entire liberty of following their inclinations without danger of discovery. The most usual method of intrigue is, to send an appointment to the lover to meet the lady at a Jew's shop, which are as notoriously convenient as our Indian-houses; and yet even those who do not make use of them, do not scruple to go to buy pennyworths, and tumble over the goods, which are chiefly to be found amongst that sort of people. The great ladies seldom let their gallants know who they are; and it is so difficult to find it out, that they can very seldom guess her name, whom they have corresponded with

which is never preached to
Neither have they much to
resentment of their husband
are rich having all their
hands.

Upon the whole, I look u
men as the only free people
very divan pays respect to th
signior himself, when a pas
violates the privileges of the
apartment), which remains u
to the widow. They are qu
whom the husband has no pe
to look upon, except it be an
that his lady chooses. It is t
them four wives; but there
man of quality that makes use
a woman of rank that would
husband happens to be incons
will happen), he keeps his

a rake, and his wife will not see him, though she continues to live in his house.

Thus you see, dear sister, the manners of mankind do not differ so widely as our voyage writers would make us believe. Perhaps it would be more entertaining to add a few surprising customs of my own invention ; but nothing seems to me so agreeable as truth, and I believe nothing so acceptable to you. I conclude therefore with repeating the great truth of my being,

Dear sister, &c.

XXXIII.

MR. POPE TO LADY MONTAGU.

MADAM,

IF to live in the memory of others have any thing desirable in it, it is what you possess with regard to me, in the highest sense of the words. There is not a day in which your figure does not appear before me ; your conversations return to my thoughts, and every scene, place, or occasion, where I have enjoyed them, are as livelily painted, as an imagination equally warm and tender can be capable to represent them. Yet how little accrues to you from all this, when not only my wishes, but the very expressions of them, can hardly ever arrive to be known to you ? I cannot tell whether you have seen half the letters I have writ ; but if you had, I have not said in them half of what I designed to say ; and you can have seen but a faint, slight, timorous

out, and this is the first
the knowledge of it to Mr
with my lady Rich's, acc
was impatient enough to
Methuen's office: they
lost nothing but such words
every day in your memory
have had thoughts of ca
future to be transcribed, &
ways than one, that of
chance to reach you. They
be artless and natural en
be no vanity in this prac
ceeded from the belief of
you, not as they came from
My eye-sight is grown so
all correspondence except
methinks, I am like those
abstract themselves from
(with whom they might be
course), to employ their

of my life. Indeed, what with ill-health and ill-fortune, I am grown so stupidly philosophical as to have no thought about me that deserves the name of warm or lively, but that which sometimes awakens me into an imagination that I may yet see you again. Compassionate a poet, who has lost all manner of romantic ideas; except a few that hover about the Bosphorus and Hellespont, not so much for the fine sound of their names, as to raise up images of Leander, who was drowned in crossing the sea to kiss the hand of fair Hero. This were a destiny less to be lamented than what we are told of the poor Jew, one of your interpreters, who was beheaded at Belgrade as a spy. I confess such a death would have been a great disappointment to me; and I believe Jacob Tonson will hardly venture to visit you after this news.

You tell me, the pleasure of being nearer the sun has a great effect upon your health and spirits. You have turned my affections so far eastward, that I could almost be one of his worshippers: for I think the sun has more reason to be proud of raising your spirits, than of raising all the plants, and ripening all the minerals, in the earth. It is my opinion, a reasonable man might gladly travel three or four thousand leagues to see your nature and your wit in their full perfection. What may not we expect from a creature that went out the most perfect of this part of the world, and is every day improving by the sun in the other! If you do not now write and speak the finest things imaginable, you must be content to be involved in the same imputation with the rest of the East, and be concluded to have abandoned your-

now growing under the canvas
you may see his images rising
you in the very scenes of his story
may lay the immortal work on
of a hero's sepulchre, and read
the shade of a Trojan ruin.
tomb of so many heroes, you h
pass over that sea where once
may at least, at ease in your ov
plate the fields of Asia in suc
prospect as you have of Homer

I send you, therefore, with t
of the Iliad, and as many o
wooden box, directed to Mr
the rest, you have all I am wort
there are few things in them b
ready seen, except the epistle
in which you will find one p
tell whether to wish you al
not.

For the news in London, I wi

ich, or Miss Griffin. The political state is great divisions, the parties of Walpole and pe as violent as whig and tory. The king ince continue two names; there is nothing coalition but at the masquerade: however, ncess is a dissenter from it, and has a very arty in so unmodish a separation.

last I received from your hands was from aradin; it gave me the joy of thinking you health and humour: one or two expressions e too generous ever to be forgotten by me. I very melancholy one just before, which was Mr. Stanyan, to be forwarded through Hun- It would have informed you how meanly I t of the pleasures of Italy, without the grati- of your company, and that mere statues and s are not more cold to me than I to them. had but four of your letters; I have sent se- nd wish I knew how many you have received. d's sake, madam, send to me as often as you the dependence that there is no man breath- ore constantly or more anxiously mindful of Tell me that you are well, tell me that your m is well, tell me that your very dog (if you ne) is well. Defraud me of no one thing that you; for whatever that is, it will please me than any thing else can do.

I am always yours,

A. POPE.

I DARE say you expect
in this letter, after I ha
taken by any Christian
most remarkable acci
was my being very near
and, if I had much rega
name enjoys after death
for having missed the ro
ming down the same
cal head of Orpheus re
since :

“Caput a ce
Gurgite cum medio, por
Volveret, Eurydicen vo
Ah, miseram Eurydicen
Eurydicen toto refereba

Who knows but some c
have found it a subject
turns, and have told the

I am at this present moment writing in a house situated on the banks of the Hebrus, which runs under my chamber window. My garden is full of tall cypress trees, upon the branches of which several couple of true turtles are saying soft things to one another from morning till night. How naturally do *thoughts* and *vows* come into my mind at this minute ! and must not you confess, to my praise, that it is more than an ordinary discretion that can resist the wicked suggestions of poetry, in a place where truth, for once, furnishes all the ideas of pastoral ? The summer is already far advanced in this part of the world ; and, for some miles round Adrianople, the whole ground is laid out in gardens, and the banks of the rivers are set with rows of fruit-trees, under which all the most considerable Turks divert themselves every evening ; not with walking, that is not one of their pleasures, but a set party of them choose out a green spot, where the shade is very thick, and there they spread a carpet, on which they sit drinking their coffee, and are generally attended by some slave with a fine voice, or that plays on some instrument. Every twenty paces you may see one of these little companies listening to the dashing of the river ; and this taste is so universal, that the very gardeners are not without it. I have often seen them and their children sitting on the banks of the river, and playing on a rural instrument, perfectly answering the description of the ancient *astula*, being composed of unequal reeds, with a simple but agreeable softness in the sound.

Mr. Addison might here make the experiment he speaks of in his travels ; there not being one instrument of music among the Greek or Roman statues

are the ancient amusements
them as cudgel-playing and
swains; the softness and
forbidding all rough exercise
much as heard of amongst t
spiring a laziness and aversi
great plenty indulges. These
happy race of country people
nish all the city with fruits
live very easily. They are
and have little houses in the
where their wives and daug
permitted in the town, I
These wenches are very n
pass their time at their loo
the trees.

I no longer look upon T
writer; he has only given a

pleasure, and find several little passages explained, that I did not before entirely comprehend the beauty of ; many of the customs, and much of the dress, then in fashion, being yet retained. I do not wonder to find more remains here of an age so distant than is to be found in any other country, the Turks not taking that pains to introduce their own manners as has been generally practised by other nations, that imagine themselves more polite. It would be too tedious to you to point out all the passages that relate to present customs. But I can assure you that the princesses and great ladies pass their time at their looms, embroidering veils and robes, surrounded by their maids ; which are always very numerous, in the same manner as we find Andromache and Helen described. The description of the belt of Menelaus exactly resembles those that are now worn by the great men, fastened before with broad golden clasps, and embroidered round with rich work. The snowy veil that Helen throws over her face is still fashionable ; and I never see half a dozen of old bashaws (as I do very often), with their reverend beards, sitting basking in the sun, but I recollect good king Priam and his counsellors. Their manner of dancing is certainly the same that Diana is *sung* to have danced on the banks of Eurotas. The great lady still leads the dance, and is followed by a troop of young girls, who imitate her steps, and, if she sings, make up the chorus. The tunes are extremely gay and lively, yet with something in them wonderfully soft. The steps are varied according to the pleasure of her that *leads the dance*, but always in exact time, and

Eastern manners give a great
ture passages that appear of
being commonly what we shou
guage. The vulgar Turk is ve
is spoken at court, or among
who always mix so much Aral
discourse, that it may very
language. And it is as rid
the expressions commonly
great man or lady, as it wou
Yorkshire or Somersetshire
Besides this distinction, the
the *sublime*, that is, a style
which is the exact scriptu
will be pleased to see a ge
and I am very glad I have it
your curiosity, by sending
the verses that Ibrahim I

you will be of my mind, that it is most wonderfully resembling "The Song of Solomon," which was also addressed to a royal bride.

Turkish Verses addressed to the Sultana, eldest daughter of Sultan Achmet III.

STANZA I.

1. The nightingale now wanders in the vines :
Her passion is to seek roses.
2. I went down to admire the beauty of the vines :
The sweetness of your charms has ravish'd my soul.
3. Your eyes are black and lovely,
But wild and disdainful as those of a stag.*

STANZA II.

1. The wished possession is delayed from day to day ;
The cruel sultan Achmet will not permit me
To see those cheeks, more vermilion than roses.
2. I dare not snatch one of your kisses ;
The sweetness of your charms has ravish'd my soul.
3. Your eyes are black and lovely,
But wild and disdainful as those of a stag.

STANZA III.

1. The wretched Ibrahim sighs in these verses :
One dart from your eyes has pierc'd thro' my heart.
2. Ah ! when will the hour of possession arrive ?
Must I yet wait a long time ?
The sweetness of your charms has ravish'd my soul.

* Sir W. Jones, in the preface to his Persian Grammar, objects to this translation. The expression is merely analogous to the "*Bowris*" of Homer.

my eyes are without sleep!
Turn to me, sultana!—let:

2. Adieu!—I go down to the
If you call me—I return.
My heart is—hot as sulphur
flame.

3. Crown of my life! fair light
My sultana! my princess!
I rub my face against the
scalding tears—I rave
Have you no compassion?
look upon me?

I have taken abundance
verses in a literal translation
acquainted with my interpreters
the trouble of assuring you, that
no poetical touches from the
opinion (allowing for the in-

with them, when, at the same time, it appears low or uncouth to us. You are so well acquainted with Homer, you cannot but have observed the same thing, and you must have the same indulgence for all Oriental poetry.

The repetitions at the end of the two first stanzas are meant for a sort of chorus, and are agreeable to the ancient manner of writing. The music of the verses apparently changes in the third stanza, where the burthen is altered; and I think he very artfully seems more passionate at the conclusion, as it is natural for people to warm themselves by their own discourse, especially on a subject in which one is deeply concerned: it is certainly far more touching than our modern custom of concluding a song of passion with a turn which is inconsistent with it. The first verse is a description of the season of the year; all the country now being full of nightingales, whose amours with roses is an Arabian fable, as well known here as any part of Ovid amongst us, and is much the same as if an English poem should begin, by saying,—“Now Philomela sings.” Or what if I turned the whole into the style of English poetry, to see how it would look?

STANZA I.

“Now Philomel renews her tender strain,
Indulging all the night her pleasing pain:

I sought the groves to hear the wanton sing,
There saw a face more beauteous than the spring.

Your large stag-eyes, where thousand glories play,
As bright, as lively, but as wild as they.

Those eyes ! like, &c.

STANZ.

Your wretched lover in thes
From those dear beauties ris

When will the hour of wish't
Must I wait longer?—Can I

Ah ! bright sultana ! maid d
Can you, unpitying, see the

STANZ.

The heavens, relenting, hear
I lothe the light, and sleep f
Turn thee, sultana, ere thy l

Sinking to earth, I sigh the
Call me, my goddess, and my

fiction, of having first seen her in a garden, he was admiring the beauty of the spring. I could not forbear retaining the comparison of it with those of a stag, though, perhaps, the use of it may give it a burlesque sound in our ears. I cannot determine upon the whole how I have succeeded in the translation, neither do I know our English proper to express such violence of passion, which is very seldom felt amongst us. I omit also those compound words which are frequent and strong in the Turkish language. I see I am pretty far gone in Oriental learning; I say truth, I study very hard. I wish my exertions may give me an occasion of entertaining curiosity, which will be the utmost advantage I can derive from them by,

Yours, &c.

XXXV.

TO MRS. S. C

Adrianople, April 1, O. S.

In your opinion, dear S. I ought rather to quarrel with you for not answering my Nimeguen letter of the 10th till December, than to excuse my not writing till now. I am sure there is on my side a good excuse for silence, having gone such tire-and-journeys, though I do not find the consequence of them so bad as you seem to imagine. I am easy here, and not in the solitude you fancy. I have the great number of Greeks, French, English,

greater is their danger.

Those dreadful stories
plague have very little for
I have much ado to recon
a word which has alway
ideas, though I am convi
it than in a fever. As
you that we passed thr
most violently infected.
where we lay (in one of
died of it. Luckily for
that I knew nothing of th
believe that our second c
However, we left our do
and yesterday they both a
and I am now let into
the *plague*. There are m
is the air ever infected

which is the term they give it. There is a set of old women who make it their business to perform the operation every autumn, in the month of September, when the great heat is abated. People send to one another to know if any of their family has a mind to have the small-pox : they make parties for this purpose, and when they are met (commonly fifteen or sixteen together), the old woman comes with a nut-shell full of the matter of the best sort of small-pox, and asks what vein you please to have opened. She immediately rips open that you offer to her with a large needle (which gives you no more pain than a common scratch), and puts into the vein as much matter as can lie upon the head of her needle, and after that binds up the little wound with a hollow bit of shell ; and in this manner opens four or five veins. The Grecians have commonly the superstition of opening one in the middle of the forehead, one in each arm, and one on the breast, to mark the sign of the cross ; but this has a very ill effect, all these wounds leaving little scars, and is not done by those that are not superstitious, who choose to have them in the legs, or that part of the arm that is concealed. The children or young patients play together all the rest of the day, and are in perfect health to the eighth. Then the fever begins to seize them, and they keep their beds two days, very seldom three. They have very rarely above twenty or thirty in their faces, which never mark ; and in eight days' time they are as well as before their illness. Where they are wounded, there remain running sores during the distemper, *which I do not doubt is a great relief to it.* Every

experiment, since I intend
little son.

I am patriot enough to
useful invention into fashion
should not fail to write to
particularly about it, if I know
I thought had virtue enough
considerable branch of their
mankind. But that deters
them not to expose to a
hardy wight that should use
it. Perhaps, if I live to see
have courage to war with
I should admire the heroism in
&c. &c.

XXXV

; and a letter out of Turkey that has nothing extraordinary in it would be as great a disappointment as my visitors will receive at London, if I return thither without any rarities to show them.

What shall I tell you of?—You never saw mules in your life; and perhaps the description of them will appear new to you: I can assure you the first sight of them was so to me; and though I have seen hundreds of pictures of those animals, I never saw any that was resembling enough to give a true idea of them. I am going to make a bold observation, and possibly a false one, because nobody has ever made it before me; but I do take them to be of the stag kind; their legs, bodies, and necks, are exactly shaped like them, and their colour very near the same. It is true, they are much larger, being a great deal higher than a horse; and so swift, that, after the defeat of Peterwaradin, they far outran the swiftest horses, and brought the first news of the loss of the battle to Belgrade. They are never thoroughly tamed; the drivers take care to tie them one to another with strong ropes, fifty in a string, led by an ass, on which the driver rides. I have seen three hundred in one caravan. They carry the third part more than any horse; but it is a particular art to load them, because of the bunch on their backs. They seem to me very ugly creatures; their heads being ill-formed, and disproportioned to their bodies. They carry all the burdens; and the beasts destined to the plough are buffaloes, an animal you are also unacquainted with. They are larger and more clumsy than an ox; they have *short, thick, black horns*, close to their heads,

They
hides, and have
make them look like
dye their tails and the hair of the
by way of ornament.

Horses are not put here to ar
nor are they at all fit for it. The
full of spirit, but generally litt
as the breed of colder countries
ever, with all their vivacity,
sure-footed. I have a little v
would not part with on any
under me with so much fire,
I had a great deal of coura
him; yet, I will assure you
much at my command in m
is the first that was ever s
world, and is gazed at wit
ship of Columbus in the f
Here are some little birds
reverence, and for that r
specially: turtles, on the
because t

pestilence. I have the happiness of one of their sacred nests under my chamber window.

Now I am talking of my chamber, I remember the description of the houses here will be as new to you as any of the birds or beasts. I suppose you have read, in most of our accounts of Turkey, that the houses are the most miserable pieces of building in the world. I can speak very learnedly on that subject, having been in so many of them; and I assure you it is no such thing. We are now lodged in a palace belonging to the grand-signior. I really think the manner of building here very agreeable, and proper for the country. It is true they are not all solicitous to beautify the outsides of their houses, and they are generally built of wood, which I own is the cause of many inconveniences; but this is not to be charged on the ill taste of the people, but on the oppression of the government. Every house at the death of its master is at the grand-signior's disposal; and therefore no man cares to make a great expense, which he is not sure his family will be the better for.* All their design is to build a house commodious, and that will last their lives; and they are very indifferent if it falls down the year after.

Every house, great and small, is divided into two distinct parts, which only join together by a narrow passage. The first house has a large court before it, and open galleries all round it, which is to me a thing very agreeable. This gallery leads to all

* If it be not put into "vacuf;" that is, annexed to some mosque or fountain.

called the *naram*, that is,
(for the name of *seraglio* i
signior); it has also a galle
wards the garden, to which
turned, and the same numt
other, but more gay and spl
and furniture. The second
low, with grates like those o
are all spread with Persian
one end of them (my cham
ends) about two-feet. This
laid with a richer sort of ca
a sort of couch, raised half
rich silk, according to the f
of the owner. Mine is of
gold fringe; round about thi
against the wall, two rows
very large, and the next little
Turks display their greatest
are generally brocade, or emb
upon white satin. nothing -

nets, I think, more conveniently than ours. Between the windows are little arches to set pots of perfume, or baskets of flowers. But what pleases me best, is the fashion of having marble fountains in the lower part of the room, which throw up several spouts of water, giving at the same time an agreeable coolness, and a pleasant dashing sound, falling from one basin to another. Some of these are very magnificent. Each house has a bagnio, which consists generally in two or three little rooms, leaded on the top, paved with marble, with basins, cocks of water, and all conveniences for either hot or cold baths.

You will, perhaps, be surprised at an account so different from what you have been entertained with by the common voyage-writers, who are very fond of speaking of what they do not know. It must be under a very particular character, or on some extraordinary occasion, that a Christian is admitted into the house of a man of quality; and their *harams* are always forbidden ground. Thus they can only speak of the outside, which makes no great appearance; and the women's apartments are always built backward, removed from sight, and have no other prospect than the gardens, which are inclosed with very high walls. There are none of our parterres in them; but they are planted with high trees, which give an agreeable shade, and, to my fancy, a pleasing view. In the midst of the garden is the *chiosk*, that is, a large room, commonly beautified with a fine fountain in the midst of it. It is raised nine or ten steps, and inclosed with gilded lattices, round which vines, jessamines,

fee, sherbet, &c. Neither a more durable manner of building are all of freestone, and the extremely magnificent, many large square, built round with arches, where poor artificers. They have always a mosque. The body of the *hann* is capable of holding three or four court extremely spacious, that give it the air of our cities. It is a more reasonable piece of building of convents.

I think I have now told you once. If you do not like me what you would have me nobody more desirous to be Mrs. Thistlethwayte,

XXXVII.

TO THE COUNTESS OF MAR.

Adrianople, April 18, O. S. 1717.

WRITE to you, dear sister, and to all my other
 sh correspondents, by the last ship, and only
 n can tell when I shall have another opportu-
 of sending to you; but I cannot forbear to
 again, though perhaps my letter may lie upon
 unds these two months. To confess the truth,
 ad is so full of my entertainment yesterday,
 t is absolutely necessary for my own repose to
 t some vent. Without further preface, I will
 begin my story:

was invited to dine with the grand-vizier's
 and it was with a great deal of pleasure I
 red myself for an entertainment which was
 before given to any Christian. I thought I
 d very little satisfy her curiosity (which I did
 oubt was a considerable motive to the invita-
 by going in a dress she was used to see, and
 fore dressed myself in the court habit of Vi-
 which is much more magnificent than ours.
 ver, I chose to go *incognita*, to avoid any dis-
 about ceremony, and went in a Turkish
 , only attended by my woman that held up
 ain, and the Greek lady who was my inter-

This was the sultana Hafitén, the favourite and widow
 sultan Mustapha II. who died in 1703.

on each side. In the
sitting on her sofa, in a sal
to meet me, and presented
friends with great civility;
good-looking woman, not
surprised to observe so I
house, the furniture being
except the habits and manner
about her appeared exp
thoughts, and told me sh
to spend either her time
that her whole expenses
whole employment pray
affectation in this spee
band are entirely give
looks upon any other
more extraordinary,
—tending the example

ry magnificent dinners, dressed by his own cooks. The first week they pleased me extremely; but, I soon, I then began to grow weary of their table, and desired our own cook might add a dish or two after our manner. But I attribute this to custom, and am very much inclined to believe that an Indian, who had never tasted of either, would prefer their cookery to ours. Their sauces are very high, and the roast very much done. They use a great deal of very rich spice. The soup is served for the first dish; and they have at least as great a variety of ragouts as we have. I was very sorry I could not eat of as many as the good lady would have had me, who was very earnest in serving me of every thing. The treat concluded with coffee and perfumes, which is a high mark of respect; two slaves kneeling *censed* my hair, clothes, and handkerchief. After this ceremony, she commanded her slaves to play and dance, which they did with their guitars in their hands, and she excused to me their want of skill, saying she took no care to accomplish them in that art.

I returned her thanks, and soon after took my leave. I was conducted back in the same manner. I entered, and would have gone straight to my own house; but the Greek lady with me earnestly solicited me to visit the *kiyaya's** lady, saying, he was the second officer in the empire, and ought indeed to be looked upon as the first; the grand-vizier having only the name, while he exercised the authority. I had found so little diversion in

* *Kyhaia* Lieutenant. The deputy to the grand-vizier.

beauty. It was nicely en-
was met at the door by
led me through a long gal-
of beautiful young girls,
plaited, almost hanging to
fine light damasks, broca-
sorry that decency did not
consider them nearer. But
upon my entrance into the
pavilion, built round which
were most of them thrum-
planted near them gave and
hindered the sun from the
jessamines and honeysuc-
their trunks shed a soft
white marble fountain in the
lower part of the room,
four basins with a pleas-

two young girls about twelve years old, angels, dressed perfectly rich, and almost with jewels. But they were hardly seen : fair *Fatima* (for that is her name), so r beauty effaced every thing I have seen; hat has been called lovely either in Eng-Germany. I must own that I never saw g so gloriously beautiful, nor can I recol-oe that would have been taken notice of 's. She stood up to receive me, saluting r their fashion, putting her hand to her lth a sweetness full of majesty, that neeeding could ever give. She ordered to be given me, and took care to place me rner, which is the place of honour. I conugh the Greek lady had before given me a inion of her beauty, I was so struck with on, that I could not for some time speak toig wholly taken up in gazing. That sur-armony of features ! that charming result hole ! that exact proportion of body ! that om of complexion, unsullied by art ! the ble enchantment of her smile !—But her arge and black, with all the soft languish-the blue ! every turn of her face discovering w grace.

my first surprise was over; I endeavoured, r e: .ining her face, to find out some im-m, without any fruit of my search, but my arly convinced of the error of that vulgar hat a face exactly proportioned, and per-antiful, would not be agreeable; nature lone for her, with more success, what i said to have essayed, by a collection of

would think her other than
queen, though educated in
barous. To say all in a word
English beauties would vie

She was dressed in a
flowered with silver, very
and showing to admiration
som, only shaded by the
Her drawers were pale
and silver, her slippers
brodered : her lovely array
of diamonds, and her brilliant
diamonds ; upon her head
kerchief of pink and silver
hanging a great length
one side of her head soon
afraid you will accuse

I think I

on the beauteous Fatima, than the finest piece of sculpture could have given me.

She told me the two girls at her feet were her daughters, though she appeared too young to be their mother. Her fair maids were ranged below the sofa, to the number of twenty, and put me in mind of the pictures of the ancient nymphs. I did not think all nature could have furnished such a scene of beauty. She made them a sign to play and dance. Four of them immediately began to play some soft airs on instruments between a lute and a guitar, which they accompanied with their voices, while the others danced by turns. This dance was very different from what I had seen before. Nothing could be more artful, or more proper to raise *certain ideas*. The tunes so soft!—the motions so *linguishing*!—accompanied with pauses and dying eyes! half-falling back, and then recovering themselves in so artful a manner, that I am very positive the coldest and most rigid prude upon earth could not have looked upon them without thinking of *something not to be spoken of*. I suppose you may have read that the Turks have no music but what is shocking to the ears; but this account is from those who never heard any but what is played in the streets, and is just as reasonable as if a foreigner should take his ideas of English music from the *bladder* and *string*, or the *marrow-bones* and *cleavers*. I can assure you that the music is extremely pathetic; it is true I am inclined to prefer the Italian, but, perhaps, I am partial. I am acquainted with a Greek lady who sings better than Mrs. Robinson, and is very well skilled in both, who gives the preference to the Turkish. It is certain they

STAGU'S LETTERS.

ral voices; these w
ie dance was over,
: room with silver c
rfumed the air with
her scents. After t
their knees in the fin
s of silver, gilt. T
ne all this while in
ner, calling me oft
utiful sultana, and de
est grace in the world
t entertain me in my

leave, two maids bro
f embroidered handk
wear the richest for
to my woman and into
be same ceremonies
hinking I had been s
lise, so much was I
n. I know not how th
n. I wish it may giv
I would have my d
rsions of,

Yot

XXXVIII.

TO THE ABBOT • • •.

Adrianople, May. 17, O. S.

I AM going to leave Adrianople, and I would not do it without giving you some account of all that is curious in it, which I have taken a great deal of pains to see.

I will not trouble you with wise dissertations, whether or no this is the same city that was anciently called Orestesit or Oreste, which you know better than I do. It is now called from the emperor Adrian, and was the first European seat of the Turkish empire, and has been the favourite residence of many sultans. Mahomet the fourth, and Mustapha, the brother of the reigning emperor, were so fond of it that they wholly abandoned Constantinople; which humour so far exasperated the janisaries, that it was a considerable motive to the rebellions that deposed them: yet this man seems to love to keep his court here. I can give you no reason for this partiality. It is true the situation is fine, and the country all round very beautiful; but the air is extremely bad, and the seraglio itself is not free from the ill effect of it. The town is said to be eight miles in compass, I suppose they reckon in the gardens. There are some good houses in it, I mean large ones; for the architecture of their palaces never makes any great show. *It is now very full of people; but they are*

there are two noble bridges built over it.

I had the curiosity to go to see the Exchange, my Turkish dress, which is disguise sufficient. I own I was not very easy when I saw it with janisaries; but they dare not be so to a woman, and made way for me with as much respect as if I had been in my own figure. It is but a mile in length, the roof arched, and kept extremely clean. It holds three hundred and sixty-five shops, furnished with all sorts of rich goods, exposed in the same manner as at the New Exchange in London: but the pavement is kept much cleaner. The shops are all so clean; they seem to be painted. Idle people of all sorts walk about for their diversion, or amuse themselves with coffee, or sherbet, which is cried about the streets, and sweetmeats are in our play-houses.

I observed most of the rich tradesmen in the Exchange. That people are in incredible power in Turkey: they have many privileges above all others, and have formed a ve-

r and want of industry in the Turks. Every
has his Jew, who is his *homme d'affaires*;
et into all his secrets, and does all his bu-

No bargain is made, no bribe received, no
andise disposed of, but what passes through
ands : they are the physicians, the stewards,
e interpreters, of all the great men.

may judge how advantageous this is to a
who never fail to make use of the smallest
ages. They have found the secret of making
lves so necessary, that they are certain of the
tion of the court, whatever ministry is in

Even the English, French, and Italian
ants, who are sensible of their artifices, are,
er, forced to trust their affairs to their ne-
on, nothing of trade being managed without
and the meanest among them being too im-
t to be disobliged, since the whole body take
f his interests with as much vigour as they
those of the most considerable of their mem-

There are many of them vastly rich, but
are to make little public show of it; though
ive in their houses in the utmost luxury and
fience.—This copious subject has drawn me
my description of the exchange, founded by
ashá, whose name it bears. Near it is the
shí, a street of a mile in length, full of shops
kinds of fine merchandise, but excessively
nothing being made here. It is covered on
p with boards, to keep out the rain, that mer-
s may meet conveniently in all weathers. The
near it, is another exchange, built upon
s, where all sorts of horse-furniture are sold :

is.

h embroidery,
show.

kish coach, to
w days to the
e to his tents,
f them is, in-
he great men
ting up a great
ed into a vast
of green, and
nsigns of their
nanner before
the top with
; to their dif-
ches to see the
of Hyde-park;
soldiers do not
erfulness. The
ie people, but
, now that the
rmy in person.
upon this oc-
o their ability.
i the morning
owever, begin
at the seraglio
which passed
was preceded
l, richly fur-
finely bound,
aded by a par-
verses of it,
oughs, repre-

a clean husbandman sowing seed. After several reapers, with garlands of ears of corn, is pictured, with scythes in their hands, to mow. Then a little machine drawn by which was a windmill, and boys employed ling corn, followed by another machine, by buffaloes, carrying an oven, and two boys, one employed in kneading bread, and in drawing it out of the oven. These boys ttle cakes on both sides among the crowd, e followed by the whole company of bakers, g on foot, two by two, in their best clothes, tes, loaves, pasties, and pies of all sorts, on ads, and after them two buffoons, or jack-s, with their faces and clothes smeared al, who diverted the mob with their antic . In the same manner followed all the es of trade in the empire ; the nobler sort, jewellers, mercers, &c. finely mounted, ny of the pageants that represent their perfectly magnificent ; among which, that rriers made one of the best figures, being rge machine, set round with the skins of , foxes, &c. so well stuffed, that the animed to be alive, and followed by music and . I believe there were upon the whole housand men, all ready to follow his high-be commanded them. The rear was closed olunteers, who came to beg the honour of his service. This part of the show seemed barbarous, that I removed from the win-on the first appearance of it. They were d to the middle. Some had their arms through with arrows left sticking in them :

others had them sticking in their heads, the blood trickling down their faces. Some slashed their arms with sharp knives, making the blood spring out upon those that stood there; and this is looked upon as an expression of their zeal for glory. I am told that some make use of it to advance their love; and when they are near the window where their mistress stands, (all the women in town being veiled to see this spectacle,) they stick another arrow for her sake, who gives some sign of approbation and encouragement to this gallantry. The whole show lasted for near eight hours, to my great sorrow, who was heartily tired, though I was in the house of the widow of the captain pashá (admiral,) who refreshed me with coffee sweetmeats, sherbet, &c. with all possible civility.

I went two days after, to see the mosque of sultan Selim I.* which is a building very well worth the curiosity of a traveller. I was dressed in my Turkish habit, and admitted without scruple though I believe they guessed who I was, by the extreme officiousness of the door-keeper to show me every part of it. It is situated very advantageously in the midst of the city, and in the highest part of it, making a very noble show. The first court has four gates, and the innermost three they are both of them surrounded with cloisters with marble pillars of the Ionic order, finely pe-

* The same sultan, between the years 1552 and 1556, constructed another mosque at Constantinople, which bears his name. The architecture exactly resembles this, and forms a perfect square of seventy-five feet, with a flat cupola rising from the side walls.

lished, and of very lively colours : the whole pavement is of white marble, and the roof of the cloisters divided into several cupolas or domes, headed with gilt balls on the top. In the midst of each court are fine fountains of white marble ; and before the great gate of the mosque, a portico, with green marble pillars, which has five gates, the body of the mosque being one prodigious dome.

I understand so little of architecture, I dare not pretend to speak of the proportions. It seemed to me very regular : this I am sure of, it is vastly high, and I thought it the noblest building I ever saw. It has two rows of marble galleries on pillars, with marble balusters : the pavement is also marble, covered with Persian carpets. In my opinion, it is a great addition to its beauty, that it is not divided into pews, and incumbered with forms and benches like our churches ; nor the pillars (which are most of them red and white marble) disfigured by the little tawdry images and pictures, that give Róman-catholic churches the air of toy-shops. The walls seemed to be inlaid with such very lively colours, in small flowers, that I could not imagine what stones had been made use of : but going nearer, I saw they were crusted with japan china, which has a very beautiful effect. In the midst hung a vast lamp of silver, gilt ; besides which, I do verily believe, there were at least two thousand of a lesser size. This must look very glorious when they are all lighted ; but being at night, no women are suffered to enter. Under the large lamp is a great pulpit of carved wood, gilt ; and just by, a fountain to wash, which, you know, is an essential part of their devotion. In one corner

is a little gallery, inclosed with gilded lattices, for the grand-signior. At the upper end, a large niche, very like an altar, raised two steps, covered with gold brocade, and, standing before it, two silver gilt candlesticks, the height of a man, and in them white wax candles, as thick as a man's waist. The outside of the mosque is adorned with towers, vastly high, gilt on the top, from whence the *imams* call the people to prayers: I had the curiosity to go up one of them, which is contrived so artfully, as to give surprise to all that see it. There is but one door, which leads to three different staircases, going to the three different stories of the tower, in such a manner, that three priests may ascend, rounding, without ever meeting each other; a contrivance very much admired.

Behind the mosque, is an exchange full of shops, where poor artificers are lodged *gratis*. I saw several dervises at their prayers here: they are dressed in a plain piece of woollen, with their arms bare, and a woollen cap on their heads, like a high-crowned hat without brims. I went to see some other mosques, built much after the same manner, but not comparable in point of magnificence to this I have described, which is infinitely beyond any church in Germany or England; I will not talk of other countries I have not seen. The seraglio does not seem a very magnificent palace: but the gardens are very large, plentifully supplied with water, and full of trees; which is all I know of them, having never been in them.

I tell you nothing of the order of Mr. Wortley's entry, and his audience. These things are always the same, and have been so often described, I will

not trouble you with the repetition. The young prince, about eleven years old, sits near his father when he gives audience : he is a handsome boy, but probably will not immediately succeed the sultan, there being two sons of sultan Mustapha (his eldest brother) remaining ; the eldest about twenty years old, on whom the hopes of the people are fixed. This reign has been bloody and avaricious. I am apt to believe, they are very impatient to see the end of it.

I am, sir, yours, &c. &c.

P. S. I will write to you again from Constantinople.

XXXIX.

TO THE ABBOT . . .

Constantinople, May 29, O. S. 1717.

I HAVE had the advantage of very fine weather all my journey ; and, as the summer is now in its beauty, I enjoyed the pleasure of fine prospects ; and the meadows being full of all sorts of garden flowers, and sweet herbs, my berlin perfumed the air as it pressed them. The grand-signior furnished us with thirty covered waggons for our baggage, and five coaches of the country for my women. We found the road full of the great spahis and their equipages coming out of Asia to the war. They always travel with tents ; but I chose to lie in houses all the way.

I will not trouble you with the names of the villages we passed, in which there was nothing remarkable, but at Tchiorlú, where there was a *oonac*, or little seraglio, built for the use of the grand-signior when he goes this road. - I had the curiosity to view all the apartments destined for the ladies of his court. They were in the midst of a thick grove of trees, made fresh by fountains; but I was most surprised to see the walls almost covered with little distiches of Turkish verse, written with pencils. I made my interpreter explain them to me, and I found several of them very well turned; though I easily believed him, that they had lost much of their beauty in the translation. One was literally thus in English :

We come into this world ; we lodge, and we depart ;
He never goes that's lodged within my heart.

The rest of our journey was through fine painted meadows, by the side of the sea of Marmora, the ancient Propontis. We lay the next night at Selivrea, anciently a noble town. It is now a good seaport, and neatly built enough, and has a bridge of thirty-two arches. Here is a famous Greek church. I had given one of my coaches to a Greek lady, who desired the conveniency of travelling with me : she designed to pay her devotions, and I was glad of the opportunity of going with her. I found it an ill-built edifice, set out with the same sort of ornaments, but less rich, as the Roman-catholic churches. They showed me a saint's body, where I threw a piece of money ; and a picture of the Virgin Mary, drawn by the hand of St. Luke, ve

little to the credit of his painting ; but, however, the finest Madonna of Italy is not more famous for her miracles. The Greeks have a monstrous taste in their pictures, which, for more finery, are always drawn upon a gold ground. You may imagine what good air this has ; but they have no notion either of shade or proportion. They have a bishop here, who officiated in his purple robe, and sent me a randle almost as big as myself for a present, when I was at my lodging.

We lay that night at a town called Bujuk Checkmedji, or Great Bridge ; and the night following, at Kujuk Checkmedji, or Little Bridge ; in a very pleasant lodging, formerly a monastery of dervises, having before it a large court, encompassed with marble cloisters, with a good fountain in the middle. The prospect from this place, and the gardens round it, is the most agreeable I have seen ; and shows, that monks of all religions know how to choose their retirements. It is now belonging to a *logia* or schoolmaster, who teaches boys here. I asked him to show me his own apartment, and was surprised to see him point to a tall cypress tree in the garden, on the top of which was a place for a bed for himself, and a little lower, one for his wife and two children, who slept there every night. I was so much diverted with the fancy, I resolved to examine his nest nearer ; but after going up fifty steps, I found I had still fifty to go up, and then I must climb from branch to branch, with some hazard of my neck. I thought it, therefore, the best way to come down again.

We arrived the next day at Constantinople ; but

London. All the ambassadors are to each other. One part of our house is the port, the city, the seraglio, and the Asia; perhaps, all together, the prospect in the world.

A certain French author says, Constantinople is twice as big as Paris. Mr. Wortley says it is bigger than London, though it appears to me to be so; but I do not know how populous. The burying-fields are certainly much larger than the whole of London, comprising what a vast deal of land is in Turkey. Sometimes I have seen burial-places several miles, belonging to very noble families, which were formerly great towns, and now are no other mark of their ancient grandeur than a dismal one. On no occasion do they set up a stone that serves for a monument. They are costly enough, being of very fine marble, and set up a pillar, with a carved turban

unmarried, who have a rose on the top of monument. The sepulchres of particular s are railed in, and planted round with trees. of the sultans, and some great men, have constantly burning in them.

When I spoke of their religion, I forgot to mention two particularities, one of which I have read that it seemed so odd to me, I could not believe yet it is certainly true: that when a man has married his wife in the most solemn manner, he take her again upon no other terms than permitting another man to pass a night with her; and there are some examples of those who have submitted to this law, rather than not have back their loved. The other point of doctrine is very extraordinary: any woman that dies unmarried, is looked upon to die in a state of reprobation. To confirm this belief, they reason, that the end of the creation of women is to increase and multiply; and that she is only properly employed in the works of her calling when she is bringing forth children, or taking care of them, which are all the virtues that God expects from her: and, indeed, their way of life, which shuts them out of all public commerce, does not permit them any other. Our vulgar notion, that they do not own women to have any souls, is a mistake: it is true, they say they are not of so elevated a kind, and therefore must not hope to be admitted into the paradise appointed for the men, who are to be entertained by celestial beauties. But there is a place of happiness destined for souls of the inferior order, where all good women are to be in eternal bliss. Many of them are

very superstitious, and will not remain widows ten days, for fear of dying in the reprobate state of an useless creature. But those that like their liberty, and are not slaves to their religion, content themselves with marrying when they are afraid of dying. This is a piece of theology very different from that which teaches nothing to be more acceptable to God than a vow of perpetual virginity : which divinity is most rational, I leave you to determine.

I have already made some progress in a collection of Greek medals. Here are several professed antiquaries who are ready to serve any body that desires them. But you cannot imagine how they stare in my face when I inquire about them, as if nobody was permitted to seek after medals till they were grown a piece of antiquity themselves. I have got some very valuable ones of the Macedonian kings, particularly one of Perseus, so lively, I fancy I can see all his ill qualities in his face. I have a porphyry head finely cut, of the true Greek sculpture ; but who it represents, is to be guessed at by the learned when I return. For you are not to suppose these antiquaries (who are all Greeks) know any thing. Their trade is only to sell ; they have correspondents at Aleppo, Grand Cairo, in Arabia, and Palestine, who send them all they can find, and very often great heaps that are only fit to melt into pans and kettles. They get the best price they can for them, without knowing those that are valuable from those that are not. Those that pretend to skill generally find out the image of some saint in the medals of the Greek cities. One of them showing me the figure of a Pallas, with a

victory in her hand on a reverse, assured me it was the Virgin holding a crucifix. The same man offered me the head of a Socrates on a sardonyx; and to enhance the value, gave him the title of saint Augustine.

I have bespoken a mummy, which I hope will come safe to my hands, notwithstanding the misfortune that befel a very fine one, designed for the king of Sweden. He gave a great price for it, and the Turks took it into their heads that he must have some considerable project depending upon it. They fancied it the body of God knows who; and that the state of their empire mystically depended on the conservation of it. Some old prophecies were remembered upon this occasion, and the mummy was committed prisoner to the Seven Towers, where it has remained under close confinement ever since: I dare not try my interest in so considerable a point as the release of it; but I hope mine will pass without examination.

I can tell you nothing more at present of this famous city. When I have looked a little about me, you shall hear from me again. I am, sir,

Yours, &c. &c.

I HOPE before this time you have
 three of my letters. I had your
 though dated the 3d of February
 suppose me to be dead and buried
 let you know that I am still alive
 I look upon my present circumstances
 the same with those of departed

The heats of Constantinople
 this place, which perfectly answers
 of the Elysian fields. I am in the
 consisting chiefly of fruit-trees,
 number of fountains, famous for
 their water, and divided into
 upon short grass, that seems to
 am assured, is the pure work of
 view of the Black Sea, from where
 enjoy the refreshment of cool
 us insensible of the heat of the
 lage is only inhabited by the rich

orance I am in of what passes among the living
 rich only comes to me by chance), and the great
 mess with which I receive it. Yet I have still
 ankerer after my friends and acquaintances
 in the world, according to the authority of that
 irable author,

That spirits departed are wondrous kind
 To friends and relations left behind :
 Which nobody can deny.

which solemn truth I am a *dead* instance. I
 k Virgil is of the same opinion, that in human
 s there will still be some remains of human
 ions.

—Curæ non ipse in morte relinquant.

It is very necessary to make a perfect Elysium,
 there should be a river Lethe, which I am not
 appy as to find.

o say truth, I am sometimes very weary of the
 ing and dancing, and sunshine, and wish for
 smoke and impertinencies in which you toil,
 igh I endeavour to persuade myself that I live
 more agreeable variety than you do ; and

Monday, setting of partridges—Tuesday, read-
 English—Wednesday, studying in the Turkish
 uage (In which, by the way, I am already very
 ned)—Thursday, classical authors—Friday,
 it in writing—Saturday, at my needle—and
 day admitting of visits, and hearing of music,

better way of disposing of the week, than
 day at the drawing-room—Tuesday, lady Mo-
 's—Wednesday, at the opera—Thursday, the
 —Friday, Mrs. Chetwynd's, &c. a perpetual

round of hearing the same scandal, & same follies acted over and over, which does me no more than they do other dead people who now hear of displeasing things without indignation. The reflection on the difference between you and me cools all news that I can neither be sensibly touched with when I consider that possibly the cause is removed before the letter comes to me (as I said before) this indolence does not hurt my few friendships; I am still warm to your's and Mr. Congreve's, and desire your remembrance, though dead to all the

I

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THE
LETTERS
OF
LADY M. W. MONTAGU.
VOL. II.



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LADY M. W. MONTAGU'S LETTERS.

XII.

MR. POPE TO LADY MONTAGU.

MADAM,
I COULD quarrel with you quite through this paper, upon a period in yours, which bids me remember you if possibly I can. You would have shown more knowledge both of yourself and of me, had you bid me forget you if possibly I could. When I do, may this hand (as the Scripture says) forget its cunning, and this heart its—folly, I was going to say—but I mean, its reason, and the most rational sensation it ever had—that of your merit.

The poetical manner in which you paint some of the scenes about you, makes me despise my native country, and sets me on fire to fall into the dance about your fountain in Belgrade village. I fancy myself, in my romantic thoughts and distant admiration of you, not unlike the man in the *Alchymist*, that has a passion for the queen of the *urines* : I lie dreaming of you in moon-shiny nights,

you, and gilding the same
you first set out on your so
I am told that fortune (my
virtue) will restore the man
robbed us of. Some think
valent the world affords for
sent out of our country;
gone, was accounted the
Adieu to that toy! let us
about the neck of the bad
England does but recover
wish of all her sensible
her discerning eyes. I
speaking of this subject.
I feel you as you draw near
your arrival. Let us have
the sun is at her service.

I write as if I were dead

I hope you will see it in your return. If I but knew you intended it, I would meet you there, and travel back with you. I would fain behold the best and brightest thing I know, in the scene of ancient virtue and glory : I would fain see how you look on the very spot where Curtius sacrificed himself for his country ; and observe what difference there would be in your eyes when you ogled the statue of Julius Cæsar, and Marcus Aurelius. Allow me but to sneak after you in your train, to fill my pockets with coins, or to lug an old busto behind you, and I shall be proud beyond expression. Let people think, if they will, that I did all this for the pleasure of treading on classic ground ; I would whisper other reasons in your ear. The joy of following your footsteps would as soon carry me to Mecca as to Rome ; and let me tell you as a friend, if you are really disposed to embrace the Mahometan religion, I will fly on pilgrimage with you thither, with as good a heart and as sound devotion as ever Jeffery Rudel, the Provençal poet, went after the fine countess of Tripoli to Jerusalem. If you never heard of this Jeffery, I will assure you he deserves your acquaintance. He lived in our Richard the First's time ; put on a pilgrim's weed, took his voyage, and when he got ashore was just upon the point of expiring. The countess of Tripoli came to the ship, took him by the hand ; he lifted up his eyes, said he had been blest with a sight of her, he was satisfied, and so departed this life. What did the countess of Tripoli upon this ? She made him a splendid funeral ; built him a tomb of porphyry ; put his epitaph upon it in Arabic verse ; had his sonnets curiously copied out,

I do not expect
plied on either side, but methinks
is done already. The letters
rious illumining of the sonne
token of respect than what
eclogues: they lie inclosed in
Turkey, written in my faire
leaves are opened with no les
pages of the Sibyls; like the
cealed from all profane eyes
have beheld these sacred re
I should think it as great a
them, as to scatter abroad
tors. As for the rest, if I
the ends of the earth, it is
I might possibly have die
Rudel; and if I had so d
have done every thing for

glass, in order to choose me one I may like. If you have any regard to my happiness, let there be something as near as possible to that face; but, if you please, the colours a little less vivid, the eyes a little less bright (such as reflection will show them); in short, let her be such an one as you seem in your own eyes, that is, a good deal less amiable than you are. Take care of this, if you have any regard to my quiet; for otherwise, instead of being her master, I must be only her slave.

I cannot end this letter without asking if you have received a box of books, together with letters, from Mr. Congreve and myself? It was directed to Mr. Wortley at Constantinople, by a merchant-ship that set sail last June. Mr. Congreve, in fits of the gout, remembers you. Dr. Garth makes epigrams in prose when he speaks of you. Sir Robert Rich's lady loves you, though sir Robert admires you. Mr. Craggs commemorates you with honour; the duke of Buckingham with praise; I myself with something more. When people speak most highly of you, I think them sparing; when I try myself to speak of you, I think I am cold and stupid. I think my letters have nothing in them; but I am sure my heart has so much, that I am vexed to find no better name for your friend and admirer, than

Your friend and admirer,

A. POPE.

Bel

I HEARTILY beg your really could not forbear letter, and the commissiour me with.

You desire me to buy to be mistress of a thou Greeks are subjects, are to be bought in that are taken in war, or in Russia, Circassia, or Georgia, are so miserable, awkward, poor, that I think any of them worth nothing. It is true that many of them are sold in the Morea; but they have been deemed by the charitable, and ransomed by the

worthless that they are of no use at all. I am afraid you will doubt the truth of this account, which, I own, is very different from our common notions in England; but it is no less truth for all that.

Your whole letter is full of mistakes from one end to the other. I see you have taken your ideas of Turkey from that worthy author Dumont, who has wrote with equal ignorance and confidence. It is a particular pleasure to me here, to read the voyages to the Levant, which are generally so far removed from truth, and so full of absurdities, I am very well diverted with them. They never fail giving you an account of the women, whom it is certain they never saw, and talking very wisely of the genius of the men, into whose company they are never admitted; and very often describe mosques, which they dare not even peep into. The Turks are very proud, and will not converse with a stranger they are not assured is considerable in his own country. I speak of the men of distinction; for, as to the ordinary fellows, you may imagine what ideas their conversation can give of the general genius of the people.

As to the balm of Mecca, I will certainly send you some; but it is not so easily got as you suppose it, and I cannot, in conscience, advise you to make use of it. I know not how it comes to have such universal applause. All the ladies of my acquaintance at London and Vienna have begged me to send pots of it to them. I have had a present of a small quantity (*which, I will assure you, is very valuable*) *of the best sort, and with great joy applied it to my face, expecting some wonderful effect to my advan-*

and, to add to my mortification, proached my indiscretion. However, my face is since *in state* by the ladies here, that it is an operation, which I confess I look in the looking-glass. Indeed, if I had the opinion of this balm from the ladies, I think very well of it. They have the loveliest bloom in the part, I never intend to end it, but let my complexion take its own way in its own due time. I am for medicines of this nature, and I am madam; only remember that your face will not be such a sight in the drawing-room for so long.

If one was to believe the
there is a surer way of making

this kind, and at last mentioned several ridiculous marriages, that there could be no other reason assigned for. I assured her, that in England, where we were entirely ignorant of all magic, where the climate is not half so warm, nor the women half so handsome, we were not without our ridiculous marriages; and that we did not look upon it as any thing supernatural when a man played the fool for the sake of a woman. But my arguments could not convince her against (as she said) her certain knowledge. To this she added, that she scrupled making use of *charms* herself; but that she could do it whenever she pleased; and, staring me in the face, said (with a very learned air), that no enchantments would have their effects upon me; and that there were some people exempt from their power, but very few. You may imagine how I laughed at this discourse; but all the women are of the same opinion. They do not pretend to any commerce with the devil; but only that there are certain compositions adapted to inspire love. If one could send over a ship-load of them, I fancy it would be a very quick way of raising an estate. What would not some ladies of our acquaintance give for such merchandize?

Adieu, my dear lady Rich! I cannot conclude my letter with a subject that affords more delightful scenes to the imagination. I leave you to figure to yourself the extreme court that will be made to me, at my return, if my travels should furnish me with such a useful piece of learning.

I am, dear madam, yours, &c. &c.

I AM infinitely obliged to
thwayte, for your entertain
only one of my correspon
right enough, to think I
of the news among you. I
me. (almost in the same w
I know every thing. Why
pose in this manner, I can
they are persuaded, that
pigeon still subsists in thi
ceive supernatural intellig

I wish I could return y
diverting accounts from
what part of the scenes
curiosity, or whether you
for things so far distant.
at this present writing, n

fruitful before marriage. They have a notion, that whenever a woman leaves off bringing forth children, it is because she is too old for that business, whatever her face says to the contrary. This opinion makes the ladies here so ready to make proofs of their youth (which is as necessary, in order to be a *received beauty*, as it is to show the proofs of nobility, to be admitted *knights of Malta*), that they do not content themselves with using the natural means, but fly to all sorts of quackeries, to avoid the scandal of being past child-bearing, and often kill themselves by them. Without any exaggeration, all the women of my acquaintance have twelve or thirteen children; and the old ones boast of having had five-and-twenty or thirty a-piece, and are respected according to the number they have produced. When they are with child, it is their common expression to say, *They hope God will be so merciful as to send them two this time*; and when I have asked them sometimes, How they expected to provide for such a flock as they desire? they answered, That the plague will certainly kill half of them; which, indeed, generally happens, without much concern to the parents, who are satisfied with the vanity of having brought forth so plentifully.

The French ambassadress is forced to comply with this fashion as well as myself. She has not been here much above a year, and has lain in once, and is big again. What is most wonderful, is the exemption they seem to enjoy from the curse entailed on the sex. They see all company on the day of their delivery, and, at the fortnight's end, return visits, set out in their jewels and new clothes.



houses burnt down
their extraordinary
which is neither by
certain machine called
feet, in the form of
carpet or embroidery.
and they put into it a
and sit with their legs
this table they work,
and, if they chance to
dour, and the hot ashes
on fire. There were
this manner about a foot
several of the owners
moved at so common a
goods into a *bark*, and
great philosophy, their
endangered, having no

the punishment of convicted liars (triumph-
iminals in our country, God knows): they are
in the forehead with a hot iron, when they
owed the authors of any notorious falsehoods.
many white foreheads should we see disfi-
, how many fine gentlemen would be forced to
their wigs as low as their eye-brows, were
aw in practice with us! I should go on to
on many other parts of justice, but I must send
y midwife.

XLIV.

TO THE COUNTESS OF MAR.

Pera of Constantinople, March 10, O. S. 1717.

WE not written to you, dear sister, these many
hs: a great piece of self-deuial. But I know
where to direct, or what part of the world you
n. I have received no letter from you since
short note of April last, in which you tell me
you are on the point of leaving England, and
ise me a direction for the place you stay in;
have in vain expected it till now: and now I
learn from the gazette, that you are returned,
h induces me to venture this letter to your
at London. I had rather ten of my letters
ld be lost, than you imagine I do not write;
think it is hard fortune if one in ten do not
you. However, I am resolved to keep the
s, as testimonies of my inclination to give
to the utmost of my power, all the diverting

new,
weeks ago. I do not
diverting adventures; thou
is not half so mortifying he
being as much difference, a
the cold in the head, which s
and the consumption cough
Nobody keeps their house
and I am not so fond of ar
retain them when they ar
turned my visits at three
four days ago, crossed the
place from Constantinople
where I had the good for
curiosities.

I went to see the sultana
late emperor Mustapha, wh
you do not know), was dep
reigning sultan, and died a
poisoned, as it was gener
was, immediately after hi

sultan's feet, and begged him to poniard her, rather than use his brother's widow with that contempt. She represented to him, in agonies of sorrow, that she was privileged from this misfortune, by having brought five princes into the Ottoman family; but all the boys being dead, and only one girl surviving, this excuse was not received, and she was compelled to make her choice. She chose Bekir Effendi, then secretary of state, and above fourscore years old, to convince the world that she firmly intended to keep the vow she had made, of never suffering a second husband to approach her bed; and since she must honour some subject, so far as to be called his wife, she would choose him as a mark of her gratitude, since it was he that had presented her, at the age of ten years, to her last lord. But she never permitted him to pay her one visit; though it is now fifteen years she has been in his house, where she passes her time in uninterrupted mourning, with a constancy very little known in Christendom, especially in a widow of one-and-twenty, for she is now but thirty-six. She has no black eunuchs for her guard, her husband being obliged to respect her as a queen, and not to inquire at all into what is done in her apartment.

I was led into a large room with a sofa the whole length of it, adorned with white marble pillars like a *ruelle*, covered with pale blue figured velvet on a silver ground, with cushions of the same, where I was desired to repose till the sultana appeared, who had contrived this manner of reception to avoid rising up at my entrance, though she made me an inclination of her head when I rose up to her. I was very glad to observe a lady that had been dis-

fine face, more decayed by so
her dress was something so
I cannot forbear describing i
vest called *donalmá*, which di
longer sleeves, and folding ov
was of purple cloth, straight
set on each side, down to h
sleeves, with pearls of the b
size as their buttons commo
suppose that I mean as large
but about the bigness of a p
large loops of diamonds, in
loops so common on birth
was tied, at the waist, wi
smaller pearls, and round
with large diamonds. Her
bottom with a great diamon
as the h

nt. Round her *kalpác* she had four strings of earl, the whitest and most perfect in the world, at least enough to make four necklaces, every one as large as the duchess of Marlborough's, and of the same shape, fastened with two roses, consisting of a large ruby for the middle stone, and round them twenty drops of clean diamonds to each. Besides this, her head-dress was covered with bodkins of emeralds and diamonds. She wore large diamond bracelets, and had five rings on her fingers (except Mr. Pitt's) the largest I ever saw in my life. It is for jewellers to compute the value of these things; but, according to the common estimation of jewels, in our part of the world, her whole dress must be worth a hundred thousand pounds sterling. This I am sure of, that no European queen has half the quantity; and the empress's jewels, though very fine, would look very mean near hers.

She gave me a dinner of fifty dishes of meat, which (after their fashion) were placed on the table out one at a time, and was extremely tedious. But the magnificence of her table answered very well to that of her dress. The knives were of gold, and the hafts set with diamonds. But the piece of luxury which grieved my eyes, was the table-cloth and napkins, which were all tiffany, embroidered with silk and gold, in the finest manner, in natural flowers. It was with the utmost regret that I made use of these costly napkins, which were as finely wrought as the finest handkerchiefs that ever came out of this country. You may be sure, that they were entirely spoiled before dinner was over. The *sherbet* (which is the liquor they drink at meals) was served in china bowls; but the covers and sal-

talked to me with the
omit this opportunity of
could of the seraglio, whi
among us. She assured
sultan's "throwing a ha
fabulous; and the manne
other than this: He send
to the lady the honour he
mediately complimented
led to the bath, where sh
in the most magnificent a
emperor precedes his vis
then comes into her apa
any such thing as her cre
She said, that the first
ways afterward the first i
of the eldest son, as othe
believe. Sometimes the
the company of all his lad
round him. And she con

her eyes, yet she seemed very fond of the discourse. "My past happiness," said she, "appears a dream to me. Yet I cannot forget, that I was beloved by the greatest and most lovely of mankind. I was chosen from all the rest, to make all his campaigns with him; and I would not survive him, if I was not passionately fond of the princess my daughter. Yet all my tenderness for her was hardly enough to make me preserve my life. When I left him, I passed a whole twelvemonth without seeing the light. Time hath softened my despair; yet I now pass some days every week in tears, devoted to the memory of my sultan."

There was no affectation in these words. It was easy to see she was in a deep melancholy, though her good humour made her willing to divert me.

She asked me to walk in her garden, and one of her slaves immediately brought her a *pelisse* of rich brocade lined with sables. I waited on her into the garden, which had nothing in it remarkable but the fountains; and from thence she showed me all her apartments. In her bed-chamber, her toilet was displayed, consisting of two looking-glasses, the frames covered with pearls, and her night *talpoche* set with bodkins of jewels, and near it three vests of fine sables, every one of which is, at least, worth a thousand dollars (two hundred pounds English money.) I do not doubt but these rich habits were purposely placed in sight, though they seemed negligently thrown on the sofa. When I took my leave of her, I was complimented with perfumes, as at the grand-vizier's, and presented with a very fine embroidered handkerchief. Her slaves were to the number of thirty, besides ten little ones, the eldest

not above seven years old. These were the most beautiful girls I ever saw, all richly dressed; and I observed that the sultana took a great deal of pleasure in these lovely children, which is a vast expense; for there is not a handsome girl of that age to be bought under a hundred pounds sterling. They wore little garlands of flowers, and their own hair, braided, which was all their head-dress; but their habits were all of gold stuffs. These served her coffee, kneeling; brought water when she washed, &c. It is a great part of the work of the elder slaves to take care of these young girls, to learn them to embroider, and to serve them as carefully as if they were children of the family.

Now, do you imagine I have entertained you all this while with a relation that has, at least, received many embellishments from my hand? This, you will say, is but too like the Arabian tales: these embroidered napkins! and a jewel as large as a turkey's egg!—You forget, dear sister, those very tales were written by an author of this country, and (excepting the enchantments) are a real representation of the manners here. We travellers are in very hard circumstances: If we say nothing but what has been said before us, *we are dull, and we have observed nothing*. If we tell any thing new, we are laughed at as *fabulous and romantic*, not allowing either for the difference of ranks, which affords difference of company, or more curiosity, or the change of customs, that happen every twenty years in every country. But the truth is, people judge of travellers exactly with the same candour, good nature, and impartiality, they judge of their neighbours upon all occasions. For my part, if I live to return

amongst you, I am so well acquainted with the morals of all my dear friends and acquaintances, that I am resolved to tell them nothing at all, to avoid the imputation (which their charity would certainly incline them to) of my telling too much. But I depend upon your knowing me enough to believe whatever I seriously assert for truth; though I give you leave to be surprised at an account so new to you.

But what would you say if I told you, that I have been in a haram, where the winter apartment was wainscoted with inlaid work of mother-of-pearl, ivory of different colours, and olive wood, exactly like the little boxes you have seen brought out of this country; and in whose rooms, designed for summer, the walls are all crusted with japan china, the roofs gilt, and the floors spread with the finest Persian carpets; yet there is nothing more true: such is the palace of my lovely friend, the fair Fatima, whom I was acquainted with at Adrianople. I went to visit her yesterday; and, if possible, she appeared to me handsomer than before. She met me at the door of her chamber, and, giving me her hand with the best grace in the world—"You Christian ladies," said she, with a smile that made her as beautiful as an angel, "have the reputation of inconstancy, and I did not expect, whatever goodness you expressed for me at Adrianople, that I should ever see you again. But I am now convinced, that I have really the happiness of pleasing you; and, if you knew how I speak of you amongst our ladies, you would be assured that you do me justice in making me your friend." She placed me in the corner of the sofa, and I spent the afternoon

not knowing how

see in her manner that she has never

the world. But Fatima has all the politeness and good-breeding of a court, with an air that inspires at once respect and tenderness: and now that I understand her language, I find her wit as agreeable as her beauty. She is very curious after the manners of other countries, and has not the partiality for her own, so common in little minds. A Greek lady that I carried with me, who had never seen her before (nor could have been admitted now, if she had not been in my train), showed that surprise at her beauty and manners which is unavoidable at first sight, and said to me in Italian, "This is a Turkish lady, she is certainly some Christiana." Fatima guessed she spoke of her, and asked what she said. I would not have told her, thinking she would have been no better pleased with the comment than one of our court beauties, to be told she had the air of a Turk: but the Greek lady told her; and she smiled, saying, "It is not the Turkish air, but so: my mother was a Polo-

or Paris. "I cannot believe you," replied she agreeably: "if beauty was so much valued in your country, as you say, they would never have suffered you to leave it." Perhaps, dear sister, you laugh at my vanity in repeating this compliment; but I only do it, as I think it very well turned, and give it you as an instance of the spirit of her conversation.

Her house was magnificently furnished, and very well fancied; her winter rooms being furnished with figured velvet on gold grounds, and those for summer with fine Indian quilting, embroidered with gold. The houses of the great Turkish ladies are kept clean with as much nicety as those in Holland. This was situated in a high part of the town; and, from the window of her summer apartment, we had the prospect of the sea, the islands, and the Asian mountains.

My letter is insensibly grown so long, I am ashamed of it. This is a very bad symptom. It is well if I do not degenerate into a downright storyteller. It may be, our proverb, that "knowledge is no burthen," may be true as to one's self, but knowing too much is very apt to make us troublesome to other people.

I am, &c. &c.

Pera, March 16,

I AM extremely pleased, my dear lady, that at length found a commission for me to answer without disappointing your expectations though I must tell you that it is not so simple as you think it; and that, if my commission has not been more diligent than any other has ever yet been, I must have answered you with an excuse, as I was forced to do when you asked me to buy you a Greek slave. I have, as you desire, a Turkish love-letter, which I have put into a little box, and ordered the Smyrniote to deliver it to you with this translation of it is literally as follows:—The piece you should pull out of the pearl-shell, which is in Turkish called *Ingi*, is thus understood in this manner:

Ingi,

Sensin Guzelerin gingi
Beloved of the young.

Birlerum şahat sahat
I faint every hour!
 Ver bixe bir umut
Give me some hope.
 Derdinden oldum sabun
I am sick with love.
 Ben oliyim size umur
May I die, and all my years be yours!
 Ben aglarum sen gul
May you be pleased, and your sorrows mine!
 Oliim sana yazir
Suffer me to be your slave.
 Ustune bulunmaz pahu
Your price is not to be found.
 Sen ghel ben chekeim senin hartsin
But my fortune is yours.
 Esking-ilen oldum ghira
I burn, I burn! my flame consumes me!
 Uzun benden a yirma
Don't turn away your face from me.
 Bazmazum tatch
Crown of my head!
 Benim iki Guzüm
My two eyes!
 Ulugorum tez ghel
I die—come quickly.
 And, by way of postscript:
 Bize bir dogm haber
Send me an answer.

see this letter is all in verse, and I can as-
 u there is as much fancy shown in the choice
 n, as in the most studied expressions of our
 ; there being, I believe, a million of verses
 d for this use. There is no colour, no flower,
 d, no fruit, herb, pebble, or feather, that has
 erse belonging to it; and you may quarrel,
 h, or send letters of passion, friendship, or

civility, or even of news, without ever inking your fingers.

I fancy you are now wondering at my profound learning : but, alas ! dear madam, I am almost fallen into the misfortune so common to the ambitious ; while they are employed on distant insignificant conquests abroad, a rebellion starts up at home ;—I am in great danger of losing my English. I find it is not half so easy to me to write in it as it was a twelvemonth ago. I am forced to study for expressions, and must leave off all other languages, and try to learn my mother-tongue. Human understanding is as much limited as human power or human strength. The memory can retain but a certain number of images ; and it is as impossible for one human creature to be perfect master of ten different languages, as to have in perfect subjection ten different kingdoms, or to fight against ten men at a time : I am afraid I shall at last know none as I should do. I live in a place that very well represents the tower of Babel : in Pera they speak Turkish, Greek, Hebrew, Armenian, Arabic, Persian, Russian, Slavonian, Walachian, German, Dutch, French, English, Italian, Hungarian ; and, what is worse, there are ten of these languages spoken in my own family. My grooms are Arabs ; my footmen French, English, and Germans ; my nurse, an Armenian ; my house-maids, Russians : half a dozen other servants, Greeks : my steward, an Italian ; my janisaries, Turks : so that I live in the perpetual hearing of this medley of sounds, which produces a very extraordinary effect upon the people that are born here ; for they learn all these

languages at the same time, and without knowing any of them well enough to write or read in it. There are very few men, women, or even children, here, that have not the same compass of words in five or six of them. I know myself several infants of three or four years old, that speak Italian, French, Greek, Turkish, and Russian, which last they learn of their nurses, who are generally of that country. This seems almost incredible to you, and is, in my mind, one of the most curious things in this country, and takes off very much from the merit of our ladies who set up for such extraordinary geniuses, upon the credit of some superficial knowledge of French and Italian.

As I prefer English to all the rest, I am extremely mortified at the daily decay of it in my head, where I will assure you (with grief of heart) it is reduced to such a small number of words, I cannot recollect any tolerable phrase to conclude my letter with, and am forced to tell your ladyship very bluntly, that I am,

Yours, &c. &c.

XLVI.

TO THE COUNTESS OF BRISTOL.

At length I have heard from my dear lady Bristol for the first time. I am persuaded you have had the goodness to write before, but I have had the ill fortune to lose your letters. Since my last, I have *staid* quietly at Constantinople, a city that I ought in conscience to give your ladyship a right notion

years here in -
yet they all pretend to see
Pera, Tophana, and Galata, whom,
Frank* Christians (and which, together,
appearance of a very fine town), are divided
it by the sea, which is not above half a
the broadest part of the Thames; but the
men are loth to hazard the adventures
times meet with amongst the *levants*
(worse monsters than our watermen),
men must cover their faces to go there
have a perfect aversion to do. It is the
veils in Pera, but they are such as
show their beauty to more advantage
not be permitted in Constantinople.
deter almost every creature from seeing
French ambassadress will return to
lieve) without ever having been there.
You will wonder, madam, to hear
have been there very often. The
veil, is become not only very easy
it was not, I would be gratified

spects present themselves. The Asian side is covered with fruit-trees, villages, and the most delightful landscapes in nature; on the European, and Constantinople, situated on seven hills. The unequal heights make it seem as large again as it is (though one of the largest cities in the world), showing an agreeable mixture of gardens, pine and cypress-trees, palaces, mosques, and public buildings, raised one above another, with as much beauty and appearance of symmetry as your ladyship ever saw in a cabinet, adorned by the most skilful hands, where jars show themselves above jars, mixed with canisters, babies, and candlesticks. This is a very odd comparison; but it gives me an exact idea of the thing.

I have taken care to see as much of the seraglio as is to be seen.* It is on a point of land running into the sea; a palace of prodigious extent, but very irregular. The gardens take in a large compass of ground, full of high cypress-trees, which is all I know of them. The buildings are all of white stone, leaded on the top, with gilded turrets and spires, which look very magnificent; and, indeed, I believe there is no Christian king's palace half so large. There are six large courts in it, all built round, and set with trees, having galleries of stone; one of these for the guard, another for the slaves, another for the officers of the kitchen, another for the stables, the fifth for the divan, and the sixth

* It is evident that lady M. W. M. did not mean to assert that she had seen the interior of the seraglio at Constantinople. She had certainly seen that at Adrianople, in which circumstance the error has originated.

to send three times to the *caimaikan* of the town), and he assembled the or heads of the law, and inquired of ther it was lawful to permit it. Th days in this important debate ; bu my request, permission was granted informed why the Turks are more subject of this mosque than on an where what Christian pleases may scruple. I fancy they imagine tha once consecrated, people, on preten might profane it with prayers, parti saints who are still very visble in mo no other way defaced but by the deca it is absolutely false, though so unive that the 'Turks defaced all the im found in the city. The dome of St to be one hundred and thirteen feet

This is a dull imperfect description of this celebrated building; but I understand architecture so little, that I am afraid of talking nonsense in endeavouring to speak of it particularly. Perhaps I am the wrong, but some Turkish mosques please me better. That of sultan Solymán is an exact square, with four fine towers in the angles; in the midst is a noble cupola, supported with beautiful marble pillars; two lesser at the ends, supported in the same manner; the pavement and gallery round the mosque of marble: under the great cupola is a fountain, adorned with such fine coloured pillars, that I can hardly think them natural marble; on one side is the pulpit, of white marble, and on the other, the little gallery for the grand-signior. A fine staircase leads to it, and it is built up with leaded lattices. At the upper end is a sort of altar, where the name of God is written; and before it stand two candlesticks as high as a man, with wax tapers as thick as three flambeaux. The pavement is spread with fine carpets, and the mosque illuminated with a vast number of lamps. The port leading to it is very spacious, with galleries of marble, of green columns, covered with twenty-four leaded cupolas on two sides, and a fine fountain of basins in the midst of it.

This description may serve for all the mosques of Constantinople. The model is exactly the same, they only differ in largeness and richness of materials. That of the Validé-Sultán is the largest built entirely of marble, the most prodigious, I think, the most beautiful structure I ever saw. It is dedicated to the honour of our sex, for it was founded by the mother of Mahomet IV. Be-

111
of it is a brazen column,
together, with their mouths gaping. It is
ble to learn why so odd a pillar was erected.
Greeks can tell nothing but fabulous legends
they are asked the meaning of it, and the
sign of its having ever had any inscription.
upper end is an obelisk of porphyry,
brought from Egypt, the hieroglyphics
entire, which I look upon as mere antiquities.
It is placed on four little brazen pillars
pedestal of square free-stone, full of figures
relief on two sides; one square represents
battle, another an assembly. The obelisk has
inscriptions in Greek and Latin; the last is in
my pocket-book, and it is as follows:

DIFFICILIS QUONDAM, DOMINIS PARE
JUSSUS, ET EXTINGTIS PALMAM PORTA
MODISIO CEDUNT, SOBOLIQUE

All the figures have their heads on; and I cannot forbear reflecting again on the impudence of authors, who all say they have not: but I dare swear the greatest part of them never saw them; it took the report from the Greeks, who resist, with incredible fortitude, the conviction of their own lies, whenever they have invented lies to the dishonour of their enemies. Were you to believe them, there is nothing worth seeing in Constantinople or Sancta Sophia, though there are several larger and, in my opinion, more beautiful mosques in that city. That of sultan Achmet has this particularity, that its gates are of brass. In all these mosques there are little chapels, where are the tombs of the founders and their families, with wax candles burning before them.

The Exchanges are all noble buildings, full of fine alleys, the greatest part supported with pillars, and kept wonderfully neat. Every trade has its distinct alley, where the merchandize is disposed in the same order as in the New Exchange at London. The *besistén*, or jewellers' quarter, shows so much riches, such a vast quantity of diamonds, and all kinds of precious stones, that they dazzle the sight. The embroiderers' is also very glittering, and people walk here as much for diversion as business. The markets are most of them handsome squares, and admirably well provided, perhaps better than in any other part of the world.

I know you will expect I should say something particular of the slaves; and you will imagine me half a Turk when I do not speak of it with the same horror other Christians have done before me. But I cannot forbear applauding the humanity of

men with an eye to be
bought and sold as put
our Christian great citi

I must add to the de
that the *historical* pill
down about two years l
the world. I have seen
tiquity except the aqu
that I am apt to believe
than the Greek empire.
clapped in some stones
to give their natives the
but the deceit is easily d
The other public buil
monasteries: the first are
the second few in numb
cent. I had the curiosity
to observe the de

that of performing their fantastic rites every Tuesday and Friday, which is done in this manner: they meet together in a large hall, where they all stand with their eyes fixed on the ground, and their arms across, while the *imaum*, or preacher, reads part of the Alcoran from a pulpit placed in the midst; and when he has done, eight or ten of them make a melancholy concert with their pipes, which are no unmusical instruments. Then he reads again, and makes a short exposition on what he has read; after which they sing and play till their superior (the only one of them dressed in green) rises and begins a sort of solemn dance. They all stand about him in a regular figure; and while some play, the others tie their robe (which is very wide) fast round their waist, and begin to turn round with an amazing swiftness, and yet with great regard to the music, moving slower or faster as the tune is played. This lasts above an hour, without any of them showing the least appearance of giddiness, which is not to be wondered at, when it is considered they are all used to it from their infancy; most of them being devoted to this way of life from their birth. There turned amongst them some little dervises, of six or seven years old, who seemed no more disordered by that exercise than the others. At the end of the ceremony they shout out, "There is no other god but God, and Mahomet is his prophet;" after which they kiss the superior's hand and retire. The whole is performed with the most solemn gravity. Nothing can be more austere than the form of these people; they never raise their eyes, and seem devoted to contemplation. And as ridiculous as this is to

description, there is something touching in the air of submission and mortification they assume.

This letter is of a horrible length ; but you may burn it when you have read enough, &c. &c.

XLVII.

TO THE COUNTESS OF BRISTOL.

I AM now preparing to leave Constantinople, and, perhaps, you will accuse me of hypocrisy when I tell you it is with regret ; but as I am used to the air, and have learnt the language, I am easy here ; and as much as I love travelling, I tremble at the inconveniences attending so great a journey with a numerous family, and a little infant hanging at the breast. However, I endeavour upon this occasion to do as I have hitherto done in all the odd turns of my life ; turn them, if I can, to my diversion. In order to this, I ramble every day, wrapped up in my *ferigée* and *asmück*, about Constantinople, and amuse myself with seeing all that is curious in it.

I know you will expect that this declaration should be followed with some account of what I have seen. But I am in no humour to copy what has been writ so often over. To what purpose should I tell you that Constantinople is the ancient Byzantium ? that it is at present the conquest of a race of people, supposed Scythians ? that there are five or six thousand mosques in it ? that Sancta Sophia was founded by Justinian ? &c. I will assure you it is not for want of learning that I forbear

all these bright things. I could also, with little trouble, turn over Knolles and sir Paul to give you a list of Turkish emperors; but not tell you what you may find in every author that has writ of this country. I am more, out of a true female spirit of contradiction, tell you the falsehood of a great part of you find in authors; as, for instance, in the noble Mr. Hill,* who so gravely asserts, that in Sancta Sophia a sweating pillar, very common for disordered heads. There is not the addition of any such matter; and I suppose revealed to him in vision during his wonder-working in the Egyptian catacombs; for I am sure never heard of any such miracle here.

It is also very pleasant to observe how tenderly all his brethren voyage-writers lament the excessive confinement of the Turkish ladies, who perhaps, more free than any ladies in the world, and are the only women in the world who lead a life of uninterrupted pleasure exempt from cares; their whole time being spent in visiting, or the agreeable amusement of spending money, and inventing new fashions. A husband might be thought mad that exacted any degree of obedience from his wife, whose expenses are no

John Hill travelled to Constantinople at the age of twenty and was received with kindness by his relative lord at that time our ambassador to the Porte. He returned to England in 1703 in the suite, and soon afterward published his "Account of Turkey," in folio, a very crude and venial performance. He lived, however, to write several Merope, tragedies which still keep their place on the English stage.

And, as miserable as I am, I am not
a mean dealer, yet I will assure you mis w.
to wear any thing less than cloth of gold;
ermine furs, and a very handsome set of j
her head. It is true they have no place
bagnios, and these can only be seen by th
sex; however, that is a diversion they ta
pleasure in.

I was three days ago at one of the fin
town, and had the opportunity of seeing :
bride received there, and all the ceremon
that occasion, which made me recollect t
lamium of Helen, by Theocritus; and it
me, that the same customs have conti
since. All the she friends, relations, and
ance of the two families, newly allied, i
bagnio; several others go out of curio
believe there were that day two hundr
one or had been married p

cession, the rest following in pairs, to the number of thirty. The leaders sung an epithalamium, answered by the others in chorus, and the two last led the fair bride, her eyes fixed on the ground, with a charming affectation of modesty. In this order they marched round the three largest rooms of the bagnio. It is not easy to represent to you the beauty of this sight, most of them being well proportioned and white skinned; all of them perfectly smooth and polished by the frequent use of bathing. After having made their tour, the bride was again led to every matron round the rooms, who saluted her with a compliment and a present, some of jewels, others of pieces of stuff, handkerchiefs, or little gallantries of that nature, which she thanked them for, by kissing their hands.

I was very well pleased with having seen this ceremony; and, you may believe me, the Turkish ladies have at least as much wit and civility, nay liberty, as among us. It is true the same customs that give them so many opportunities of gratifying their evil inclinations (if they have any), also put it very fully in the power of their husbands to revenge themselves if they are discovered: and I do not doubt but they suffer sometimes for their indiscretions in a very severe manner. About two months ago, there was found at daybreak, not very far from my house, the bleeding body of a young woman, naked, only wrapped in a coarse sheet, with two wounds of a knife, one in her side and another in her breast. She was not quite cold, and was so surprisingly beautiful, that there were very few *men in Pera* that did not go to look upon her; but *it was not possible for any body to know her, no*

is never p-

It is the business of the next relations to the dead person ; and if they like better to pound the matter for money (as they generally do) there is no more said of it. One would think this defect in their government should make tragedies very frequent, yet they are extremely rare ; which is enough to prove the people naturally cruel. Neither do I think in many particulars they deserve the barbarous customs we give them. I am well acquainted with a Christian woman of quality, who made it her choice to live with a Turkish husband, and is a very able sensible lady. Her story is so extraordinary I cannot forbear relating it ; but I promise to tell it in as few words as I can possibly.

She is a Spaniard, and was at Naples in a noble family when that kingdom was part of the Turkish dominion. Coming from thence in a frigate, accompanied by her brother, they were attacked by the Turkish admiral, boarded, and taken prisoner. I shall I modestly tell you the r

and attendants, who made haste to Spain, and a few months sent the sum of four thousand pounds sterling as a ransom for his sister. 'The k took the money, which he presented to her, told her she was at liberty. But the lady very rectly weighed the different treatment she was ly to find in her native country. Her relations the kindest thing they could do for her in her ent circumstances) would certainly confine her nunnery for the rest of her days. Her infidel r was very handsome, very tender, very fond of and lavished at her feet all the Turkish magnence. She answered him very resolutely, that liberty was not so precious to her as her hor; that he could no way restore that but by rying her; and she therefore desired him to pt the ransom as her portion, and give her the sfaction of knowing, that no man could boast of favours without being her husband. The adal was transported at this kind of offer, and t back the money to her relations, saying, he too happy in her possession. He married her, never took any other wife, and (as she says herself) she never had reason to repent the choice she le. He left her some years after one of the best widows in Constantinople. But there is no maining honourably a single woman, and that sideration has obliged her to marry the present tain pashá (*i. e.* admiral,) his successor.—I am did that you will think my friend fell in love with ravisher; but I am willing to take her word it, that she acted wholly on principles of hor, though I think she might be reasonably

touched at his generosity, which is often found among the Turks of rank.

It is a degree of generosity to tell the truth, and it is very rare that any Turk will assert a solemn falsehood. I do not speak of the lowest sort; for as there is a great deal of ignorance, there is very little virtue amongst them; and false witnesses are much cheaper than in Christendom, those wretches not being punished (even when they are publicly detected) with the rigour they ought to be.

Now I am speaking of their law, I do not know whether I have ever mentioned to you one custom peculiar to their country, I mean *adoption*, very common amongst the Turks, and yet more amongst the Greeks and Armenians. Not having it in their power to give their estates to a friend or distant relation, to avoid its falling into the grand signior's treasury, when they are not likely to have any children of their own, they choose some pretty child of either sex among the meanest people, and carry the child and its parents before the *cadi*, and there declare they receive it for their heir. The parents at the same time renounce all future claim to it; a writing is drawn and witnessed, and a child thus adopted cannot be disinherited. Yet I have seen some common beggars that have refused to part with their children in this manner to some of the richest among the Greeks (so powerful is the instinctive affection that is natural to parents), though the adopting fathers are generally very tender to these *children of their souls*, as they call them. I own this custom pleases me much better than our absurd one of following our name. Me-

thinks it is much more reasonable to make happy and rich an infant whom I educate after my own manner, *brought up* (in the Turkish phrase) *upon my knees*, and who has learned to look upon me with a filial respect, than to give an estate to a creature, without other merit or relation to me than that of a few letters. Yet this is an absurdity we see frequently practised.

Now I have mentioned the Armenians, perhaps it will be agreeable to tell you something of that nation, with which I am sure you are utterly unacquainted. I will not trouble you with the geographical account of the situation of their country, which you may see in the maps, or a relation of their ancient greatness, which you may read in the Roman history. They are now subject to the Turks; and, being very industrious in trade, and increasing and multiplying, are dispersed in great numbers through all the Turkish dominions. They were, as they say, converted to the Christian religion, by St. Gregory, and are, perhaps, the devoutest Christians in the whole world. The chief precepts of their priests enjoin the strict keeping of their lents, which are at least seven months in every year, and are not to be dispensed with on the most emergent necessity; no occasion whatever can excuse them, if they touch any thing more than mere herbs or roots (without oil) and plain dry bread: that is their constant diet. Mr. Wortley has one of his interpreters of this nation; and the poor fellow was brought so low by the severity of his fasts, that his life was despaired of. Yet neither his master's commands, nor the doctor's *attempts* (who declared nothing else could save

I think the Greek -

it is certain the Holy Spirit's proceeding from the Father, is making a plain subordinat Son. But the Armenians have no notion of substantiation, whatever account sir Pa gives of them (which account I am apt to think was designed to compliment our court) and they have a great horror for those who change to the Roman religion.

What is most extraordinary in their ceremony of their matrimony; a ceremony I believe is the same all over the world. They are always profligate young, but the espoused never see one another till three days after their marriage. The bride is carried to church with a cap on her head, instead of a large trencher, and over it a red cloth which covers her all over to her feet. Then the bridegroom, Whether he is content to be the deaf, be she blind!

early one young fellow, who wept when he
f it, being promised by his mother to a girl
must marry in this manner, though he
d to me, he had rather die than submit to
very, having already figured his bride to
with all the deformities of nature.

y I see you bless yourself at this terrible
. I cannot conclude my letter with a more
ng story; yet it is as seriously true, as that

Dear sister, yours, &c. &c.

XLVIII.

TO THE ABBOT • • •.

Constantinople, May 19, O. S. 1718.

tremely pleased with hearing from you, and
ty (the darling frailty of mankind) not a lit-
ered by the uncommon questions you ask
ough I am utterly incapable of answering

And, indeed, were I as good a mathema-
as Euclid himself, it requires an age's stay
e just observations on the air and vapours.
not been yet a full year here, and am on the
f removing. Such is my rambling destiny.
ill surprise you, and can surprise nobody so
s myself.

aps you will accuse me of laziness, or dul-
r both together, that can leave this place
t giving you some account of the Turkish

I can only tell you, that if you please to
: Paul Rycaut, you will there find a full and

the manners of people may
them escape the observation c
not the same of the govern
reason, since I can tell you no
you nothing of it.

In the same silence shall
arsenal and seven towers; and
already described one of the
particularly. But I cannot for
you of a mistake of Gemelli (t
in a much higher degree th
writer): he says that there ar
cedon; this is certainly a m
yesterday, and went cross the
the sea being very narrow b
Constantinople. It is still a
several mosques in it. The C
Calcedonia. and the Turks siv

its banks, where they have, at the same time, the most beautiful prospects in Europe and Asia; there are near one another some hundreds of magnificent palaces.

Human grandeur being here yet more unstable than any where else, it is common for the heirs of a great three-tailed pashá not to be rich enough to keep in repair the house he built; thus, in a few years, they all fall to ruin. I was yesterday to see that of the late grand vizier, who was killed at Peterwaradin. It was built to receive his royal bride, daughter of the present sultan, but he did not live to see her there. I have a great mind to describe it to you; but I check that inclination, knowing very well that I cannot give you, with my best description, such an idea of it as I ought. It is situated on one of the most delightful parts of the canal, with a fine wood on the side of a hill behind it. The extent of it is prodigious; the guardian assured me there are eight hundred rooms in it; I will not, however, answer for that number, since I did not count them; but it is certain the number is very large, and the whole adorned with a profusion of marble, gilding, and the most exquisite painting of fruit and flowers. The windows are all sashed with the finest crystalline glass brought from England; and here is all the expensive magnificence that you can suppose in a palace founded by a vain luxurious young man, with the wealth of a vast empire at his command. But no part of it pleased me better than the apartments designed for the bagnios. There are two built exactly in the same manner, answering to one another: the baths, fountains, and pavements, all

falls into a large basin, surround
throw up the water as high
walls are in the nature of lava
outside of them, there are
planted, that form a sort of
give an agreeable obscurity
chambers.

I should go on and let you in
apartments (all worthy your
yet harder to describe a Turk
other, being built entirely irre-
thing that can be properly cal-
and, though such a confusion
to the sight, yet it would be
a letter. I shall only add, that
stained for the sultan, when he
is wainscoted with mother of
emeralds like nails. There is

hed as we represent them. It is true their cence is of a very different taste from ours, haps of a better. I am almost of opinion ve a right notion of life. They consume it c, gardens, wine, and delicate eating, while tormenting our brains with some scheme cs, or studying some science to which we ver attain, or, if we do, cannot persuade eople to set that value upon it we do s. It is certain what we feel and see is (if any thing is properly) our own; but d of fame, the folly of praise, are hardly ed, and, when obtained, a poor recompense of time and health. We die or grow old ve can reap the fruit of our labours. Con- ; what short-lived weak animals men are, any study so beneficial as the study of pre- asure? I dare not pursue this theme; per- have already said too much, but I depend e true knowledge you have of my heart. I expect from you the insipid railleries I suffer from another in answer to this let- ou know how to divide the idea of pleasure at of vice, and they are only mingled in the of fools. But I allow you to laugh at me sensual declaration in saying, that I had be a rich *effendi*, with all his ignorance, Isaac Newton with all his knowledge.

I am, sir, &c. &c.

40

Tunis, July 31, O. S

I LEFT Constantinople the sixth of the last
and this is the first post from whence I can
a letter, though I have often wished for the
tunity, that I might impart some of the pleasures
found in this voyage through the most agreeable
part of the world, where every scene presents
some poetical idea.

Warm'd with poetic transport I survey
Th' immortal islands, and the well known
For here so oft the muse her harp has strung
That not a mountain rears its head unsun

I beg your pardon for this sally, and
can, continue the rest of my account in French
'The second day after we set sail we fell in
with a city situated in the bay

a swimming lover, and the nightly bride,
 how Hero loved, and how Leander died.

again!—I am certainly infected by the poet.
 I have passed through. That of Abydos is
 notedly very amorous, since that soft passion
 led the castle into the hands of the Turks
 besieged it in the reign of Orchanes. The
 king's daughter imagining to have seen her
 husband in a dream (though I do not find
 had either slept upon bride-cake, or kept St.
 George's fast), fancied she saw the dear figure in
 form of one of her besiegers; and, being will-
 ing to obey her destiny, tossed a note to him over
 the wall, with the offer of her person and the deli-
 very of the castle. He showed it to his general,
 who consented to try the sincerity of her intentions,
 and withdrew his army, ordering the young man
 to return with a select body of men at midnight.
 He admitted him at the appointed hour: he de-
 stroyed the garrison, took the father prisoner, and
 made her his wife. This town is in Asia, first
 founded by the Milesians. Sestos is in Europe,
 and was once the principal city of Chersonesus.
 Since I have seen this strait, I find nothing impro-
 bable in the adventure of Leander, or very wonder-
 ful in the bridge of boats of Xerxes. It is so nar-
 row, it is not surprising a young lover should at-
 tempt to swim, or an ambitious king try to pass
 his army over it. But then it is so subject to
 storms, it is no wonder the lover perished, and
 the bridge was broken. From hence we had a full
 view of mount Ida,

Where Juno once caressed her am'rous Jove,
 And the world's master lay subdued by love.

chored. My car
climb to the top of it to see the place
was buried, and where Alexander ran to
his tomb in honour of him, which was
a great comfort to his ghost. I saw the
of a very large city, and found a stone
Mr. Wortley plainly distinguished the
ΣΙΓΑΙΑΝ ΠΟΛΙΝ. We ordered this on
ship; but were showed others much more
by a Greek priest, though a very ignorant
that could give no tolerable account of
On each side the door of this little church
large stones, about ten feet long and
breadth, and three in thickness. The
right is a very fine white marble, the
beautifully carved in bas-relief; it
woman, who seems to be designed for
sitting on a chair with a footstool, a
another woman weeping, and presenting
young child that she has in her arms
procession of women with children
is certainly part of

as impossible to bear it to the sea-side; and, as it was there, his long boat would not be large enough to hold it.*

The ruins of this great city are now inhabited by Greek peasants, who wear the Sciote habit, women being in short petticoats, fastened by a round their shoulders, and large smockes of white linen, with neat shoes and stockings, and on their heads a large piece of muslin, which falls in large folds on their shoulders. One of my countrymen, Mr. Sandys,† (whose book I do not you have read, as one of the best of its kind,) speaking of these ruins, supposes them to have been the foundation of a city begun by Constantine, before his building Byzantium; but I see no good reason for that imagination, and am apt to give them much more ancient.

We saw very plainly from this promontory the river Simois rolling from mount Ida, and running through a very spacious valley. It is now a considerable river, and is called Simores; it is fed in the vale by the Scamander, which appeared a small stream half choked with mud, but is perhaps large in the winter. This was Xanthus among the gods, as Homer tells us; and it is by that hea-

The first mentioned of these marbles is engraved in the *Antiquities*, published by the Dilettanti Society, and described by Dr. Chandler in his *Tour in Asia Minor*. The second bears the celebrated inscription so often referred to, the roof of the Βουστροφύγον, one of the most ancient monuments of writing among the Greeks.

George Sandys, one of the most valuable travellers into the Levant, whose work had reached four editions in the reign of Charles the First.

STAGU'S LETTERS.

Oh Oenone invokes it in her
the Trojan virgins * used to
ers to it, by the name of Sca-
enture which Monsieur de la
agreeably abolished that hea-
When the stream is mingled
run together to the sea.

ft of Troy is the ground on
I am firmly persnaded, what-
ty may be found round it are
and I think Strabo says the
er, there is some pleasure in
re I imagined the famous duel
s had been fought, and where
he world was situated. It is
situation that can be found for
empire, much to be preferred
ople, the harbour here being
or ships from all parts of the
Constantinople inaccessible al-
the year, while the north wind

ontory of Sigæum we saw that
l for the sepulchre of Ajax.
celebrated fields and rivers, I
geography of Homer, whom I
almost every epithet he gives to
is still just for it; and I spent
in as agreeable cogitations
te had on mount Montesinos.
it to the shore, where it is vul-

tory, Monsieur Bayle may be con-
r, article "Scamander."

reported Troy stood; and I took the pains of
 at two in the morning, to view coolly those
 which are commonly showed to strangers,
 which the Turks call *Eski Stamboul*,* *i. e.*
 Constantinople. For that reason, as well as
 others, I conjecture them to be the remains
 at city begun by Constantine. I hired an ass
 only voiture to be had there), that I might go
 miles into the country, and take a tour round
 ncient walls, which are of a vast extent. We
 l the remains of a castle on a hill, and of an-
 : in a valley, several broken pillars, and two
 stals, from which I took these Latin inscrip-
 :

1.

DIVI. AUG. COL.
 ET COL. IUL. PHILIPPENSIS
 EORUNDEM PRINCIPUM
 COL. IUL. PARIANAÆ. TRIBUN.
 MILIT. COH. XXXII. VOLUNTAR.
 TRIB. MILIT. LEG. XIII. GEM.
 PRAEFECTO EQUIT. ALAE. I.
 SCUBULORUM
 VIC. VIII.

2.

DIVI. IULI. FLAMINI
 C. ANTONIO. M. F.
 VOLT. RUFO. FLAMIN.
 DIV. AUG. COL. CL. APRENS.

Alexander Troas, which the early travellers have erro-
 y. considered as the true site of ancient Troy.

TRIB. M.
GEM. PRAEF. EQUIT. AL.
SCUDULORUM
VIC. VII.

I do not doubt but the remains of a temple
this place are the ruins of one dedicated to
gustus; and I know not why Mr. Sandys calls
Christian temple, since the Romans certainly
hereabouts. Here are many tombs of fine
and vast pieces of granite, which are daily
by the prodigious balls that the Turks use
them for their cannon. We passed that
the Isle of Tenedos, once under the power
Apollo, as he gave it in himself in the
of his estate when he courted Daphne.
ten miles in circuit, but in those days we
seen, still famous for its excellence
passed

leaving Scio (the ancient Chios) on the left, which is the richest and most populous of these islands, fruitful in cotton, corn, and silk, planted with groves of orange and lemon trees, and the Arvisian mountain, still celebrated for the nectar that Virgil mentions. Here is the best manufacture of silks in all Turkey. The town is well built, the women famous for their beauty, and show their faces as in Christendom. There are many rich families, though they confine their magnificence to the inside of their houses, to avoid the jealousy of the Turks, who have a pashá here : however, they enjoy a reasonable liberty, and indulge the genius of their country;

And eat, and sing, and dance away their time,
Fresh as their groves, and happy as their clime.

Their chains hang lightly on them, though it is not long since they were imposed, not being under the Turk till 1566. But, perhaps, it is as easy to obey the grand-signior as the state of Genoa, to whom they were sold by the Greek emperor. But I forget myself in these historical touches, which are very impertinent when I write to you. Passing the strait between the islands of Andros and Achaia, now Libadia, we saw the promontory of Sunium, now called Cape Colonna, where are yet standing the vast pillars of a temple of Minerva. This venerable sight made me think, with double regret, on a beautiful temple of Theseus, which I am assured was almost entire at Athens till the last campaign *in the Morea*, that the Turks filled it with powder, and it was accidentally blown up. You may believe

But instead of
informed it is now over-run
should run a great risk of
by undertaking such a jour-
country, for which, however
spect, that I have much ad-
troubling you with its w
foundation of Mycenæ and
paign there ; but I check
that of landing. We sailed
once Malea, where I saw
temple of Apollo. We ca
of Candia : it is very mo-
tinguished that of Ida.—
that here were a hundred

—Centum urbe

—them—the

temples, delineating the miracles of statuaries, and conversing with the most polite and most gay of mankind. Alas ! art is extinct here ; the wonders of nature alone remain ; and it was with vast pleasure I observed those of mount *Ætna*, whose flame appears very bright in the night many leagues off at sea, and fills the head with a thousand conjectures. However, I honour philosophy too much, to imagine it could turn that of *Empedocles* ; and *Lucian* shall never make me believe such a scandal of a man, of whom *Lucretius* says,

———*Vix humana videtur stirpe creatus*———

We passed *Trinacria* without hearing any of the sirens that *Homer* describes ; and, being thrown on neither *Scylla* nor *Charybdis*, came safe to *Malta*, first called *Melita* from the abundance of honey. It is a whole rock covered with very little earth. The grand-master lives here in the state of a sovereign prince ; but his strength at sea now is very small. The fortifications are reckoned the best in the world, all cut in the solid rock with infinite expense and labour.———Off this island we were tossed by a severe storm, and were very glad, after eight days, to be able to put into *Porta Farine* on the African shore, where our ship now rides. At *Tūnis* we were met by the English consul who resides there. I readily accepted of the offer of his house for some days, being very curious to see this part of the world, and particularly the ruins of *Carthage*. I set out in his chaise at nine at night, the moon being at full. I saw the prospect of the country almost as well as I could have done by day-light ;

for the
of date, olive, and
art, yet afford the most delicate
Their vineyards and melon-fields are encircled
hedges of that plant we call Indian-fig, which is an
admirable fence, no wild beast being able to pass it.
It grows a great height, very thick, and the spikes
or thorns are as long and sharp as bodkins: it bears
a fruit much eaten by the peasants, and which bears
no ill taste.

It being now the season of the Turkish *ramazan*
or Lent, and all here professing, at least, the Mos-
hometan religion, they fast till the going down
the sun, and spend the night in feasting. We
under the trees companies of the country people
eating, singing, and dancing to their wild
They are not quite black, but all mulattoes
the most frightful creatures that can appear
human figure. They are almost naked, only
ing a piece of coarse serge wrapped about
But the women have their arms, to their
shoulders, and their necks and faces, adorned
and various sorts of figures in
and various sorts of figures in

Wortley assured me that of Rome is very superior to it. The stones are of a prodigious size yet all polished, and so exactly fitted to each other, that very little cement has been made use of to cement them. Yet they may probably stand a thousand years longer, if art is not made use of to pull them down. Soon after day-break I arrived at a town fairly built of very white stone, but without gardens, which, they say, were all destroyed when the Turks first took it, none having been planted since. The dry sand gives a very disagreeable prospect to the eye; and the want of contributing to the natural heat of the climate renders it so excessive, that I have much ado to support it. It is true here is every noon the refreshment of the sea-breeze, without which it would be impossible to live; but no fresh water but what is served in the cisterns of the rains that fall in the month of September. The women of the town are dressed from head to foot under a black crape; being mixed with a breed of renegadoes, are to be seen many of them fair and handsome. This city was besieged in 1270, by Lewis king of France, and fell under the walls of it of a pestilential plague. After his death, Philip, his son, and our Edward, son of Henry III. raised the siege on honourable terms. It remained under its native African kings, till betrayed into the hands of the Genoese, admiral of Solymán the Magnificent. Emperor Charles V. expelled Barbarossa, but was recovered by the Turk, under the conduct of the Pashá, in the reign of Selim II. From that time till now it has remained tributary to the Ottoman Empire, governed by a *bey*, who suffers the

name of subject to the Turk, but has renounced the subjection, being absolute, and very seldom paying any tribute. The great city of Bagdat is at this time in the same circumstances; and the grand-signior connives at the loss of these dominions, for fear of losing even the titles of them.

I went very early yesterday morning (after one night's repose) to see the ruins of Carthage.—I was, however, half broiled in the sun, and overjoyed to be led into one of the subterranean apartments, which they called "The stables of the elephants," but which I cannot believe were ever designed for that use. I found in them many broken pieces of columns of fine marble, and some of porphyry. I cannot think any body would take the insignificant pains of carrying them thither, and I cannot imagine such fine pillars were designed for the use of stables. I am apt to believe they were summer apartments under their palaces, which the heat of the climate rendered necessary: they are now used as granaries by the country people. While I sat here, from the town of *Tents*, not far off, many of the women flocked in to see me, and we were equally entertained with viewing one another. Their posture in sitting, the colour of their skin, their lank black hair falling on each side their faces, their features, and the shape of their limbs, differ so little from their country people the baboons, it is hard to fancy them a distinct race; I could not help thinking there had been some ancient alliances between them.

When I was a little refreshed by rest, and some milk and exquisite fruit they brought me, I went up the little hill where once stood the castle of

Byrsa, and from thence I had a distinct view of the situation of the famous city of Carthage, which stood on an isthmus, the sea coming on each side of it. It is now a marshy ground on one side, where there are salt ponds. Strabo calls Carthage forty miles in circumference. There are now no remains of it, but what I have described; and the history of it is too well known to want my abridgement of it. You see, sir, that I think you esteem obedience better than compliments. I have answered your letter, by giving you the accounts you desired, and have reserved my thanks to the conclusion. I intend to leave this place to-morrow, and continue my journey through Italy and France. In one of those places I hope to tell you, by word of mouth, that I am,

Your humble servant, &c. &c.

L.

TO THE COUNTESS OF MAR.

Genoa, Aug. 28, O. S. 1718.

I **BEG** your pardon, my dear sister, that I did not write to you from Tunis, the only opportunity I have had since I left Constantinople. But the heat there was so excessive, and the light so bad for the sight, I was half blind by writing one letter to the abbé * * *, and durst not go to write many others I had designed; nor, indeed, could I have entertained you very well out of that barbarous country. *I am now surrounded with subjects of pleasure, and so much charmed with the beauties of Italy,*

have nan-
nant, at St. Peter's.
unjust not to allow her
speak of, since her good humour
pany have very much contributed to
place agreeable to me.

Genoa is situated in a very fine
built on a rising hill, intermixed with
beautified with the most excellent
gives a very fine prospect off at sea
much of its beauty in my eyes,
customed to that of Constantinople
were once masters of several islands
pelago, and all that part of Con-
now called Galata. Their bet-
cause, by facilitating the taking
by the Turks, deserved what
them, even the loss of all their
side to those infidels. They
despised by the late

were any such upon earth. The fashion began here, and is now received all over Italy, where the husbands are not such terrible creatures as we represent them. There are none among them such brutes as to pretend to find fault with a custom so well established, and so politically founded, since I am assured that it was an expedient first found out by the senate, to put an end to those family hatreds which tore their state to pieces, and to find employment for those young men who were forced to cut one another's throats *pour passer le temps*; and it has succeeded so well, that, since the institution of cecisbei, there has been nothing but peace and good humour among them. These are gentlemen who devote themselves to the service of a particular lady (I mean a married one, for the virgins are all invisible, and confined to convents): they are obliged to wait on her to all public places, such as the plays, operas, and assemblies (which are here called *conversations*), where they wait behind their chair, take care of her fan and gloves if she play, have the privilege of whispers, &c. When she goes out, they serve her instead of lacqueys, gravely trotting by her chair. It is their business to prepare for her a present against any day of public appearance, not forgetting that of her own name:* in short, they are to spend all their time and money in her service, who rewards them accordingly (for opportunity they want none); but the husband is not to have the impudence to suppose this any other than pure Platonic friendship. It is true, they endeavour to give her a cecisbeo of their own choosing; but when

* This is, the day of the saint after whom she is called.

and every lady is forced to
at a time.

You may see in this place
a republic, or, more properly
common people being here
French ; but the old noble
doge, who is but two years
wife, at that very time, as
other noble lady. It is true
Doria (that great man, who
liberty they enjoy) have seen
when the senate found it was
the luxury of dress, for
jewels and brocades, they
make what expense they please
on the statue of the
court belonging to the house
puts me in mind of their p

here, disposed with the most elegant taste and lavish magnificence. But I am charmed with nothing so much as the collection of pictures by the pencils of Raphael, Paulo Veronese, Titian, Caracci, Michael Angelo, Guido, and Corregio, which two I mention last as my particular favourites. I own I can find no pleasure in objects of horror; and, in my opinion, the more naturally a crucifix is represented, the more disagreeable it is. These, my beloved painters, show nature, and show it in the most charming light. I was particularly pleased with a Lucretia in the house of Balbi: the expressive beauty of that face and bosom gives all the passion of pity and admiration that could be raised in the soul by the finest poem on that subject. A Cleopatra of the same hand deserves to be mentioned; and I should say more of her, if Lucretia had not first engaged my eyes. Here are also some inestimable ancient bustos. The church of St. Lawrence is built of black and white marble, where is kept that famous plate of a single emerald, which is not now permitted to be handled, since a plot, which they say was discovered, to throw it on the pavement and break it—a childish piece of malice, which they ascribe to the king of Sicily, to be revenged for their refusing to sell it to him. The church of the Annunciation is finely lined with marble, the pillars are of red and white marble; that of St. Ambrose has been very much adorned by the Jesuits; but I confess, all the churches appeared so mean to me, after that of Sancta Sophia, I can hardly do them the honour of writing down their names.—But I hope you will own I have made good use of my time, in seeing so

TERS.

that we have been
which nobody is ex-
it. Ours, indeed,
and very agreeably
pany, in the village
mile from Genoa,
so well designed, and
a pleasure to walk in
by a few English, in
ese, commissioned to
ther. I shall stay here
I almost wish it were
fear, is not destined to

I am, &c. &c.

I.

ESS OF BRISTOL.

Turin, Sept. 12, O. S. 1718.

Genoa, through fine roads,
already seen what is showed
own, which, indeed, is not
or description; and I have
or the holy handkerchief to
churches are handsome, and
; but I have lately seen such
ture, I did not give much of
e pieces. The town itself is
in a fine plain on the banks of
e distance from it, we saw th

ces of La Venerie and La Valentin, both very
seable retreats. We were lodged in the Piazza
ale, which is one of the noblest squares I ever
, with a fine portico of white stone quite round
We were immediately visited by the chevalier
* *, whom you knew in England; who, with
t civility, begged to introduce us at court,
ch is now kept at Rivoli, about a league from
in. I went thither yesterday, and had the
our of waiting on the queen, being presented to
by her first lady of honour. I found her ma-
in a magnificent apartment, with a train of
some ladies, all dressed in gowns, among
m it was easy to distinguish the fair princess
arignan. The queen entertained me with a
ld of sweetness and affability, and seemed mis-
s of a great share of good sense. She did not
et to put me in mind of her English blood, and
ed, that she always felt in herself a particular
ination to love the English. I returned her
ity, by giving her the title of majesty as often
could, which, perhaps, she will not have the
fort of hearing many months longer. The king
a great deal of vivacity in his eyes; and the young
ce of Piedmont is a very handsome young man;
the great devotion which this court is at pre-
fallen into, does not permit any of those en-
ainments proper for his age. Processions and
ses are all the magnificence in fashion here;
gallantry is so criminal, that the poor count of
* *, who was our acquaintance at London, is
seriously disgraced, for some small overtures
resumed to make to a maid of honour.

dream...
bottom you see

L.H.

TO MRS. THISTLETHWAITE

Lyon, Sept. 1

I RECEIVED, at my arrival here, both
letters, and also letters from many
friends, designed to Constantine
me from Marseilles hither; our
knowing we were upon our return
to hear my sister Mar has left
what I wrote to her from Toulon
where to direct I know not,
her affairs from her own hands
confined to my chamber
ever since I have

The prodigious prospect of mountains covered with eternal snow, of clouds hanging far below our feet, and of vast cascades tumbling down the rocks with a confused roaring, would have been entertaining to me, if I had suffered less from the extreme cold that reigns here : but the misty rains, which fall perpetually, penetrated even the thick fur I was wrapped in ; and I was half dead with cold before we got to the foot of the mountain, which was not till two hours after dark. This hill has a spacious plain on the top of it, and a fine lake there ; but the descent is so steep and slippery, it is surprising to see these chairmen go so steadily as they do. Yet I was not half so much afraid of breaking my neck, as I was of falling sick ; and the event has showed that I placed my fears right.

The other mountains are now all passable for a chaise, and very fruitful in vines and pastures : among them is a breed of the finest goats in the world. Acquebellet is the last ; and soon after we entered Pont Beauvoisin, the frontier town of France, whose bridge parts this kingdom and the dominions of Savoy. The same night we arrived late at this town, where I have had nothing to do but to take care of my health. I think myself already out of any danger, and am determined that the sore throat, which still remains, shall not confine me long. I am impatient to see the curiosities of this famous city, and more impatient to continue my journey to Paris, from whence I hope to write you a more diverting letter than it is possible for me to do now, with a mind weakened by sickness, a head muddled with spleen, from a sorry inn, and

LETTERS.

mortifying of
3.

I am, &

PE.

ms, Sept. 28, O.

should thank
oy from my re
ngry at you for
ch. You will
my side. I w
ty of the joy
sider that I m
thousand dis
receive and p
at tea-tables,
uestions; and
ature that can
cant good wis
cessary good t
y, I think I mi
e and quiet ma
e. I should ce
theme one lin
nder of this p
bles of brass
own-house.

I. TABLE.

Mærorum. nostr : : : sii : : : equidem. primam. omnium. illam. cogitationem. hominum. quam. maxime. primam. occursuram. mihi. provideo. deprecor. ne. quasi. novam. istam. rem. introduci. exhorrescatis. sed. illa. potius. cogitetis. quam. multa. in. hac. civitate. novata. sint. et. quidem. statim. ab. origine. urbis. nostræ. in. quod. formas. statusque. res. p. nostra. diducta. sit.

Quondam. reges. hanc. tenuere. urbem. ne. tamen. domesticis. successoribus. eam. tradere. contigit. supervenere. alieni. et. quidam. externi. ut. Numa. Romulo. successerit. ex. Sabinis. veniens. vicinius. quidem. sed. tunc. externus. ut. Anco. Marcio. Priscus. Tarquinius. propter. temeratum. sanguinem. quod. patre. Demarato. Corinthio. natus. erat. et. Tarquiniensi. matre. generosa. sed. inopi. ut. quæ. tali. marito. necesse. habuerit. succumbere. cum. domi. repelleretur. a. gerendis. honoribus. postquam. Romam. migravit. regnum. adeptus. est. huic. quoque. et. filio. nepotiv. ejus. nam. et. hoc. inter. auctores. discrepat. incretus. Servius. Tullius. si. nostros. sequimur. captiva. natus. Ocrezia. si. Tuscos. coeli. quondam. Vivennæ. sodalis. fidelissimus. omnisque. ejus. casus. comes. postquam. varia. fortuna. exactus. cum. omnibus. reliquis. Coeliani. exercitus. Etruria. excessit. Montem. Coelium. occupavit. et. a. duce. suo. Coelio. ita. appellatus. mutatoque. nomine. nam. Tusce. Mastarna. ei. nomen. erat. ita. appellatus. est. ut. dixi. et. regnum. summa. cum. reip. utilitate. obtinuit. deinde. postquam. Tarquini. *Superbi. mores. invisi. civitati. nostræ. esse. coeperunt. qua. ipsius. qua. filiorum. ejus. nempe. per-*

curiæ. confert. ex. qua. colonia. inter. paucos. equestris. ordinis. ornamentum. L. Restinum. familiarissime. diligo. et. hodieque. in. rebus. meis. detineo. cujus. liberi. fruuntur. quæso. primo. sacerdotiorum. gradu. post. modo. cum. annis. promoturi. dignitatis. suæ. incrementa. ut. dirum. nomen. latronis. taceam. et. odi. illud. palestricum. prodiguum. quod. ante. in. domum. consulatum. intulit. quam. colonia. sua. solidum. civitatis. Romanæ. beneficium. consecuta. est. idem. de. fratre. ejus. possum. dicere. miserabili. quidem. indignissimoque. hoc. casu. ut. vobis. utilis. senator. esse. non. possit.

Tempus. est. jam. Tl. Cæsar. Germanice. detegere. te. Patribus. Conscriptis. quo. tendat. oratio. tua. jam. enim. ad. extremos. fines. Galliæ. Narbonensis. venisti.

Tot. ecce. insignes. juvenes. quot. intueor. non. magis. sunt. poenitendi. senatorib. quam. poenitet. Persicum. nobilissimum. virum. amicum. meum. inter. imagines. majorum. suorum. Allobrogici. nomen. legere. quod. si. hæc. ita. esse. consentitis. quid. ultra. desideratis. quam. ut. vobis. digito. demonstrum. solum. ipsum. ultra. fines. provinciæ. Narbonensis. jam. vobis. senatores. mittere. quando. ex. Lugduno. habere. nos. nostri. ordinis. viros. non. poenitet. timide. quidem. P. C. egressus. adsueto. familiaresque. vobis. provinciarum. terminos. sum. sed. destrictæ. jam. Comatæ. Galliæ. causa. agenda. est. in. qua. si. quis. hoc. intuetur. quod. bello. Per. decem. annos. exercuerunt. Divom. Julium. idem. opponat. centum. annorum. immobilem. fidem. obsequiumque. multis. tripidis. rebus. nostris. plusquam. expertum. illi. patri. meo. Druso. Germaniam. subigenti. tutam.

maxime. quæ.

notæ. sint. facultates. nostræ.

magno. experimento. cognoscimus.

I was also showed, without the gate of St. some remains of a Roman aqueduct; and the monastery of St. Mary there are the the imperial palace where the emperor Claudius lived, and where Severus lived. The great church of St. John is a good Gothic building, and much admired by the Germans. In one of the conspicuous parts of the town is the late statue set up, trampling upon mankind. I forbear saying one word here of the French (for I never intend to mention any more of them with their gilded full-bottomed wigs. If they had intended to express, in one image, *ignorance*, *ill taste*, and *vanity*, his sculptors could have found no more so proper for that purpose.

I have had time to see every thing with great leisure, having been confined several days to this town by a swelling in my throat, the remains of a fever, occasioned by a cold I got in the damps of the Alps. The doctors here threaten me with all sorts of distempers, if I dare to leave them ; but I, that know the obstinacy of it, think it just as possible to continue my way to Paris with it, as to go about the streets of Lyons ; and am determined to pursue my journey to-morrow, in spite of doctors, apothecaries, and sore throats.

When you see lady Rich, tell her I have received her letter, and will answer it from Paris, believing that the place that she would most willingly hear of.

I am, &c. &c.

LIV.

TO THE LADY RICH.

Paris, Oct. 10, O. S. 1718.

I CANNOT give my dear lady Rich a better proof of the pleasure I have in writing to her, than choosing to do it in this seat of various amusements, where I am *accablée* with visits, and those so full of vivacity and compliments, that it is full employment enough to hearken, whether one answers or not. The French embassadress at Constantinople has a very considerable and numerous family here, who all come to see me, and are never weary of making inquiries. The air of Paris is

already had a good effect upon me ; for I was never in better health, though I have been extremely ill all the road from Lyons to this place. You may judge how agreeable the journey has been to me ; which did not want that addition to make me dislike it. I think nothing so terrible as objects of misery, except one had the godlike attribute of being capable to redress them ; and all the country villages of France show nothing else. While the post-horses are changed, the whole town comes out to beg, with such miserable starved faces, and thin tattered clothes, they need no other eloquence to persuade one of the wretchedness of their condition. This is all the French magnificence till you come to Fontainbleau, when you are showed one thousand five hundred rooms in the king's hunting palace. The apartments of the royal family are very large, and richly gilt ; but I saw nothing in the architecture or painting worth remembering. The long gallery, built by Henry IV. has prospects of all the king's houses. Its walls are designed after the taste of those times, but appear now very mean. The park is, indeed, finely wooded and watered, the trees well grown and planted, and in the fish-ponds are kept tame carp, said to be, some of them, eighty years of age. The late king passed some months every year at this seat ; and all the rocks round it, by the pious sentences inscribed on them, show the devotion in fashion at his court, which I believe died with him ; at least, I see no exterior marks of it at Paris, where all people's thoughts seem to be on present diversion.

The fair of St. Lawrence is now in season. You may be sure I have been carried thither, and think

it much better disposed than ours of Bartholomew. The shops being all set in rows so regularly and well lighted, they made up a very agreeable spectacle. But I was not at all satisfied with the *grossièreté* of their harlequin, no more than with their music at the opera, which was abominably grating, after being used to that of Italy. Their house is a booth, compared to that of the Hay-market, and the play-house not so neat as that of Lincoln's-Inn-fields; but then it must be owned, to their praise, their tragedians are much beyond any of ours. I should hardly allow Mrs. O**** a better place than to be confidante to La***. I have seen the tragedy of Bajazet so well represented, that I think our best actors can be only said to speak, but these to feel; and it is certainly infinitely more moving to see a man appear unhappy, than to hear him say that he is so, with a jolly face, and a stupid smirk in his countenance.—*A-propos* of countenances, I must tell you something of the French ladies; I have seen all the beauties, and such — (I cannot help making use of the coarse word) nauseous creatures! so fantastically absurd in their dress! so monstrously unnatural in their paints! their hair cut short, and curled round their faces, and so loaded with powder, that it makes it look like white wool! and on their cheeks to their chins, unmercifully laid on a shining red japan, that glistens in a most flaming manner, so that they seem to have no resemblance to human faces. I am apt to believe, that they took the first hint of their dress from a fair sheep newly ruddled. It is with pleasure I recollect my dear pretty countrywomen: and if I was writing to any body else, I should say that these grotesque daubers

give me still a higher esteem of the natural charms of dear lady Rich's auburn hair, and the lively colours of her unsullied complexion.

I am, &c. &c.

P. S. I have met the Abbé here, who desires me to make his compliments to you.

LV.

TO MR. T

Paris, Oct. 16, O. S. 1718.

You see I am just to my word, in writing to you from Paris, where I was very much surprised to meet my sister ; I need not add, very much pleased. She as little expected to see me as I her (having not received my late letters) ; and this meeting would shine under the hand of De Scuderie ; but I shall not imitate his style so far as to tell you how often we embraced ; how she inquired by what odd chance I returned from Constantinople ? And I answered her by asking what adventure brought her to Paris ? To shorten the story, all questions and answers, and exclamations, and compliments, being over, we agreed upon running about together, and have seen Versailles, Trianon, Marli, and St. Cloud. We had an order for the water to play for our diversion, and I was followed thither by all the English at Paris. I own Versailles appeared to me rather vast than beautiful ; and after having seen the exact proportions of the Italian buildings, I thought the irregularity of it shocking.

The king's cabinet of antiques and medāls is, indeed, very richly furnished. Among that collection none pleased me so well as the apotheosis of Germanicus, on a large agate, which is one of the most delicate pieces of the kind that I remember to have seen. I observed some ancient statues of great value. But the nauseous flattery, and tawdry pencil of Le Brun, are equally disgusting in the gallery. I will not pretend to describe to you the great apartment, the vast variety of fountains, the theatre, the grove of Æsop's fables, &c. all which you may read very amply particularised in some of the French authors that have been paid for these descriptions. Trianon, in its littleness, pleased me better than Versailles : Marli better than either of them ; and St. Cloud best of all ; having the advantage of the Seine running at the bottom of the gardens, the great cascade, &c. You may find information in the aforesaid books, if you have any curiosity to know the exact number of the statues, and how many feet they cast up the water.

We saw the king's pictures in the magnificent house of the duke d'Antin, who has the care of preserving them till his majesty is of age. There are not many, but of the best hands. I looked with great pleasure on the archangel of Raphael, where the sentiments of superior beings are as well expressed as in Milton. You will not forgive me if I say nothing of the Tuileries, much finer than our Mall ; and the Cour, more agreeable than our Hyde-park, the high trees giving shade in the hottest season. At the Louvre I had the opportunity of seeing the king, accompanied by the duke-regent. He is tall and well shaped, but has not the air of

by them with the utmost
Poor souls !—This reflection
puts me in mind of the
not take up your time
scriptions, which are to

In general, I think
London, in the neatness of
the regular lighting of the
proportion of the streets
of stone, and most of the
quality, being beautiful
tainly may boast of a tower
and when I have said that
surpass it in. I shall
you have any thing to
short stay, write soon,
obeying you.

LVI.

TO THE ABBOT **.

Dover, Oct. 31, O. S. 1718.

ling to take your word for it, that I shall
lige you, by letting you know, as soon as
my safe passage over the water. I arrived
ing at Dover, after being tossed a whole
the packet-boat, in so violent a manner,
master, considering the weakness of his
ought it proper to remove the mail, and
notice of the danger. We called a little
at, which could hardly make up to us ;
the people on board us were crying to
It is hard to imagine one's self in a scene
r horror than on such an occasion ; and
I own it to you ? though I was not at all
be drowned, I could not forbear being
d at the double distress of a fellow-
She was an English lady that I had met
who desired me to let her go over with
cabin. She had bought a fine point-head,
was contriving to conceal from the cus-
-officers. When the wind grew high, and
vessel cracked, she fell very heartily to
s, and thought wholly of her soul. When
to abate, she returned to the worldly care
d-dress, and addressed herself to me—
adam, will you take care of this point ?
'd be lost !—Ah, Lord, we shall all be

glad to get rid of it,
boat, though with some
It brought me safe hit
ing with partial eyes
tiality was certainly g
rambling, the effect
knowledge, which we
we get by it, is a fruit
ferent pleasures and
to the different parts
in any one of them.
to be found in the la
having decayed my sig
the easy peace of mind
undisturbed by doubt
mility, every Sunday
sentiments of natura
inquiries.

land. I pray God I may think so for the rest of life ; and, since I must be contented with our tiny allowance of daylight, that I may forget the evening sun of Constantinople.

I am, &c. &c.

LVII.

MR. POPE TO LADY MONTAGU.

September 1.

MADAM,

I HAVE been (what I never was till now) in debt to you for a letter some weeks. I was informed you were at sea, and that it was to no purpose to write you some news had been heard of your arriving somewhere or other. Besides, I have had a second dangerous illness, from which I was more diligent to be recovered than from the first, having now more hopes of seeing you again. If you make any tour in Italy, I shall not easily forgive you for not acquainting me soon enough to have met you there. I am very certain I can never be polite unless I travel with you : and it is never to be repaired, the loss that Homer has sustained, for want of my translating him in Asia. You will come hither full of criticisms against a man who wanted nothing to be in the right but to have kept you company ; you have no way of making me amends, but by continuing an epistolic when you return to me, whatever Englishers you may put on to other people.

I prodigiously long for your sonnets, your remarks, your oriental learning ;—but I long for nothing so much as your oriental self. You must of

inner dressed as you
left off, as unwieldy and
European habits. With
be it spoken, I have a
soul stark naked, for I
tiest kind of white soul
get whom I am talking
time believe, according
have none ; if so, show
to a soul ; you may eas
rant Christian for a se
with it ;—I mean your
allows you hearts ; wh
and other agreeable equ
souls on this side the
content with seeing you
come quickly : I honour
casket that held Home

in a common-field, where, under the shade of a
oak, sat two lovers, as constant as ever were
d in romance, beneath a spreading beech.
name of the one (let it sound as it will) was
Hewet, of the other Sarah Drew. John was
all-set man about five-and-twenty, Sarah a
n woman of eighteen. John had for several
ths borne the labour of the day in the same
with Sarah; when she milked, it was his
ing and evening charge to bring the cows to
pail. Their love was the talk, but not the
lal, of the whole neighbourhood; for all they
d at was the blameless possession of each other
arriage. It was but this very morning that he
obtained her parents' consent, and it was but
he next week that they were to wait to be
y. Perhaps this very day, in the intervals of
work, they were talking of their wedding
es; and John was now matching several kinds
oppies and field flowers to her complexion, to
her a present of knots for the day. While
were thus employed (it was on the last of
, a terrible storm of thunder and lightning
e, and drove the labourers to what shelter the
or hedges afforded. Sarah, frightened and out
eath, sunk on a haycock, and John (who never
ated from her) sate by her side, having raked
or three heaps together to secure her. Imme-
ly there was heard so loud a crack as if heaven
burst asunder. The labourers, all solicitous
ch other's safety, called to one another: those
were nearest our lovers, hearing no answer,
ed to the place where they lay: they first saw a
smoke, and after, this faithful pair;—John,

small spot between her
the next day in one gra
Harcourt, in Oxfordshir
at my request, has erec
Of the following epitap
have chosen the godly o
you had been in Englan
better ; I think it was
fused me on so moving

When Eastern lovers f
On the same pile their
Here pitying Heav'n t
And blasted both that
Hearts so sincere th' A
Sent his own lightning,

Upon the whole, I cannot think these people unhappy. The greatest happiness, next to living as they would have done, was to die as they did. The greatest honour people of this low degree could have was to be remembered on a little monument; unless you will give them another,—that of being honoured with a tear from the finest eyes in the world. I know you have tenderness; you must have it; it is the very emanation of good sense and virtue; the finest minds, like the finest metals, dissolve the easiest.

But when you are reflecting upon-objects of pity, pray do not forget one who had no sooner found out an object of the highest esteem, than he was separated from it; and who is so very unhappy as not to be susceptible of consolation from others, by being so miserably in the right as to think other women what they really are. Such an one cannot but be desperately fond of any creature that is quite different from these. If the Circassian be utterly void of such honour as these have, and such virtue as these boast of, I am content. I have detested the sound of *honest woman*, and *loving spouse*, ever since I heard the pretty name of *Odaliche*. Dear Madam, I am for ever

Yours, &c.

My most humble services to Mr. Wortley. Pray let me hear from you soon, though I shall very soon write again. I am confident half our letters are lost.

LVIII.

TO MR. POPE.

Dover, Nov. 1, O. S. 1718.

I HAVE this minute received a letter of yours, sent me from Paris. I believe and hope I shall very soon see both you and Mr. Congreve; but as I am here in an inn, where we stay to regulate our march to London, bag and baggage, I shall employ some of my leisure time in answering that part of yours that seems to require an answer.

I must applaud your good nature, in supposing, that your pastoral lovers (vulgarly called hay-makers) would have lived in everlasting joy and harmony, if the lightning had not interrupted their scheme of happiness. I see no reason to imagine, that John Hughes and Sarah Drew were either wiser or more virtuous than their neighbours. That a well-set man of twenty-five should have a fancy to marry a brown woman of eighteen, is nothing marvellous; and I cannot help thinking, that had they married, their lives would have passed in the common track with their fellow-parishioners. His endeavouring to shield her from the storm was a natural action, and what he would have certainly done for his horse, if he had been in the same situation. Neither am I of opinion, that their sudden death was a reward of their mutual virtue. You know the Jews were reproved for thinking a village destroyed by fire more wicked than those that had escaped the thunder. Time and chance happen to

men. Since you desire me to try my skill in an epiphram, I think the following lines perhaps more so, though not so poetical as yours.

Here lie John Hughes and Sarah Drew;
Perhaps you'll say what's that to you?
Believe me, friend, much may be said
On this poor couple that are dead.
On Sunday next they should have married;
But see how oddly things are carried!
On Thursday last it rain'd and lighten'd;
These tender lovers, sadly frighten'd,
Shelter'd beneath the cocking hay,
In hopes to pass the time away;
But the bold thunder found them out,
(Commission'd for that end no doubt,)
And, seizing on their trembling breath,
Consign'd them to the shades of death.
Who knows if 'twas not kindly done?
For had they seen the next year's sun,
A beaten wife and cuckold swain
Had jointly cursed the marriage chain;
Now they are happy in their doom,
For Pope has wrote upon their tomb.

I confess these sentiments are not altogether so poetical as yours; but I hope you will forgive them for the favour of the two last lines. You see how much I esteem the honour you have done them; though I am not very impatient to have the same, and had rather continue to be your stupid *living* humble servant, than be *celebrated* by all the pens in Eu-

I would write to Congreve, but suppose you will say this to him, if he inquires after me.



LETTERS

WRITTEN PREVIOUS

TO THE

1BASSY TO CONSTANTINOPLE.



LETTERS

WRITTEN PREVIOUS

TO THE

AMBASSY TO CONSTANTINOPLE.



LETTERS.

LIX.

TO LADY . . .

HAVING (like other undeserving people) a vast opinion of my own merits, and some small faith in your sincerity, I believed it impossible you should forget me, and therefore very impudently expected a long letter from you this morning; but Heaven, which you know delights in abasing the proud, has, I find, decreed no such thing; and, notwithstanding my vanity and your vows, I begin to fancy myself forgotten; and this epistle comes, in humble manner, to kiss your hands, and petition for the scanty alms of one little visit, though never so short: pray, madam, for God's sake, have pity on a poor prisoner—one little visit—so may God send you a fine husband, continuance of beauty, &c.; but if you deny my request, and make a jest of my tenderness (which, between friends, I do think a little upon the ridiculous), I do vow never to —; but I had better not vow, for I shall certainly love you, do what you will—though I beg you would not tell some certain people of that fond expression,

LX.

TO MRS. WOR

THIS comes to inquire after
first place; and if there be
very of my diamond? If not,
with reckoning it one of the
to this devout time, and it n
of humiliation. Is not this
which we ought to bear losse

* Mrs. — was at that time t
unmarried ladies, who had con
See Spectator, &c.

LXI.

TO MRS. WORTLEY.

July 21, 1709.

How often, my dear Mrs. Wortley, must I assure you that your letters are ever agreeable, and, beyond expression, welcome to me? Depend upon it that I reckon the correspondence you favour me with too great a happiness to neglect it; there is no danger of your fault; I rather fear to grow troublesome by my acknowledgments. I will not believe you flatter me; I will look upon what you say as an obliging mark of your partiality. How happy must I think myself when I fancy your friendship to me even great enough to overpower your judgment! I am afraid this is one of the pleasures of the imagination, and I cannot be so very successful in so earnest and important a wish. This letter is excessively dull. Do you know it is from my vast desire of pleasing you, as there is nothing more frequent than for the voice to falter when people sing before judges, or, as those arguments are always worst where the orator is in a passion. Believe me, I could scribble three sheets to — (I must not name), but to twenty people, that have not so great a share of my esteem, and whose friendship is not so absolutely necessary for my happiness, but am quite at a loss to you. I will not commend your letters (let them deserve never so much), because I will show you it is possible for me to forbear what I have a mind to, when I know

I am horridly ashamed or
ven you may not think it to
laughed at—that may be.

LXII.

TO MRS. W

I SHALL run mad—with
write, when they believe th
received? I have already
scrawl, but it seems it nev
I cannot bear to be accus
whom I shall love all my li
misery as the last did;

ineasiness; and let me beg you for the future, if you do not receive letters very constantly from me, imagine the post-boy killed—imagine the mail burnt—or some other strange accident: you can imagine nothing so impossible as that I forget you, my dear Mrs. Wortley. I know no pretence I have to your good opinion but my hearty desiring it: I wish I had that imagination you talk of, to render me a fitter correspondent for you, who can write so well on every thing. I am now so much alone, I have leisure to pass whole days in reading, but am not all proper for so delicate an employment as choosing you books. Your own fancy will better direct you. My study at present is nothing but dictionaries and grammars. I am trying whether it be possible to learn without a master: I am not certain (and dare hardly hope) I shall make any great progress; but I find the study so diverting, I am not only easy, but pleased with the solitude that indulges it. I forget there is such a place as London, and wish for no company but yours. You see, my dear, in making my pleasures consist of these unfashionable diversions, I am not of the number who cannot be easy out of the mode. I believe more follies are committed out of complaisance to the world, than in following our own inclinations—Nature is seldom in the wrong, custom always; it is with some regret I follow it in all the impertinences of dress; the compliance is so trivial, it comforts me: but I am-amazed to see it consulted even in the most important occasions of our lives; and that people of good sense in other things can make their happiness consist in the opinions of others, and sacrifice every thing to the

horses. I believe you
dated from the other world, for sure I
never heard an inhabitant of this talk so before.
suppose you expect, too, I should conclude
begging pardon for this extreme tedious and
nonsensical letter—quite contrary, I think
be obliged to me for it. I could not better
my great concern for your reproaching me
neglect I knew myself innocent of, than
myself mad in three pages.

My sister says a great deal about Mrs.
besides my having forgot it, the paper
end.

LXIII.

TO MRS. WORTLEY.

August

Nothing to write

but you may think what you please of me, I must eternally think the same things of you.

I hope my dear Mrs. Wortley's showing my letter is in the same strain as her compliments, all meant for raillery; and I am not to take it as a thing really so; but I will give you as serious an answer as if it was all true.

When Mr. Cowley, and other people, (for I know several have learnt after the same manner,) were in places where they had opportunity of being learned by word of mouth, I do not see any violent necessity of printed rules; but being where from the top of the house to the bottom not a creature in it understands so much as even good English, without the help of a dictionary or inspiration, I know no way of attaining to any language. Despairing of the last, I am forced to make use of the other, though I do verily believe I shall return to London the same ignorant soul I went from it; but the study is a present amusement. I must own I have vanity enough to fancy, if I had any body with me, without much trouble perhaps I might read.

What do you mean by complaining I never write to you in the quiet situation of mind I do to other people? My dear, people never write calmly, but when they write indifferently. That I should ever do so to you, I take to be entirely impossible; I must be always very much pleased or in very great affliction: as you tell me of your friendship, or unkindly doubt mine. I can never allow even prudence and sincerity to have any thing to do with one another, at least I have always found it so in myself, who being devoted to the one, had never the

search for a way
lutely necessary it is for me to preserve
dence is at the very time saying to me,
mad? you will not send this dull, tedious,
long letter to Mrs. Wortley, will you? in
direct way to tire out her patience: if she
you as you deserve, she will first laugh very
then tear the letter, and never answer:
to avoid the plague of such another: will
nature for ever resist her judgment?—
to these counsels, I allow them to be
then—I act quite contrary: no consider
hinder me from telling you, my dear,
Wortley, nobody was ever so entirely, &c
yours, as

M. PIERCE

I put in your lovers, for I do not allow
for a man to be so sincere as I am; in
such a thing, though, you would find
therefore to your judgment.
tell you that I write

LXIV.

TO MRS. WORTLEY.

Aug. 21, 1709.

I AM infinitely obliged to you, my dear Mrs. Wortley, for the wit, beauty, and other fine qualities, you so generously bestow upon me. Next to receiving them from Heaven, you are the person from whom I would choose to receive gifts and graces: I am very well satisfied to owe them to your own delicacy of imagination, which represents to you the idea of a fine lady, and you have good-nature enough to fancy I am she. All this is mighty well, but you do not stop there: imagination is boundless. After giving me imaginary wit and beauty, you give me imaginary passions, and you tell me I am in love: if I am, it is a perfect sin of ignorance, for I do not so much as know the man's name! I have been studying these three hours, and cannot guess who you mean. I passed the days of Nottingham races in Thoresby, without seeing or even wishing to see one of the sex. Now if I am in love, I have very hard fortune to conceal it so industriously from my own knowledge, and yet discover it so much to other people. It is against all form to have such a passion as that, without giving one sigh for the matter. Pray tell me the name of him I love, that I may (according to the laudable custom of lovers) sigh to the woods and groves hereabouts, and teach it to the echo. You see, being in love, I

do well in their turns:—curious, what do you mean by constancy? I confess you have qualities I have not, and I am for them, but then you must show me few I have. No, I will never forsake the beauty and wit you have, but let me know me my own mediocrity of agreeableness, but leave me also my sincerity and my plain dealing; it is all I have, and I am content to leave me to the esteem either of others or myself. Should I despise myself if I am capable of either inconstancy or constancy? how I may appear to others, or how my face may belie my heart, or how I never was or can be guilty of inconstancy—you will think that I pique myself upon. To you I am, and repent of your harsh civility to my uneasiness, for you are a good person about whose good opinion

This letter is a good deal grave, and, like other grave things, dull; but I will not ask pardon for what I cannot help.

LXV.

TO MRS. WORTLEY.

Sept. 5, 1709.

My dear Mrs. Wortley; as she has the entire power of raising, can also, with a word, calm my passions. The kindness of your last recompenses me for the injustice of your former letter; but you cannot sure be angry at my little resentment. You have read that a man who, with patience, hears himself called heretic, can never be esteemed a good Christian. To be capable of preferring the despicable wretch you mention to Mr. Wortley, is as ridiculous, if not as criminal, as forsaking the Deity to worship a calf. Do not tell me any body ever had so mean an opinion of my inclinations; it is among the number of those things I would forget. My tenderness is always built upon my esteem; and when the foundation perishes, it falls: I must own, I think it is so with every body—but enough of this: you tell me it was meant for raillery—was not the kindness meant so too? I fear I am too apt to think what is amusement designed in earnest—no matter, it is for my repose to be deceived, and I will believe whatever you tell me.

I should be very glad to be informed of a right method, or whether there is such a thing alone, but am afraid to ask the question. It may be rea-

LXVI.

TO MRS. WORTLEY.

London

My knight-errantry is at an end,
I shall henceforward think freeing
and knocking down windmills mor
dertakings than the defence of any w
tion whatever. To say truth, I hav
great esteem for the generality of tl
my only consolation for being of t
been the assurance it gave me of n
ried to any one among them ; bu
sent, I am so much out of humour
of lady H * * *, that I never
ashamed of my petticoats before. Y
nose, that by this discreet match
and I at

charitable, and they agree in the kind reflection, that nothing hinders women from playing the fool but not having it in their power. 'The many instances that are to be found to support this opinion, ought to make the few reasonable more valued—but where are the reasonable ladies?

Dear madam, come to town, that I may have the honour of saying there is one in St. James's-place.

LXVII.

TO THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY
(DR. GILBERT BURNET,)

With her Translation of Epictetus.

July 20, 1710.

MY LORD,

YOUR hours are so well employed, I hardly dare offer you this trifle to look over; but then, so well am I acquainted with the sweetness of temper which accompanies your learning, I dare ever assure myself of a pardon. You have already forgiven me greater impertinences, and condescended yet farther in giving me instructions, and bestowing some of your minutes in teaching me. This surprising humility has all the effect it ought to have on my heart; I am sensible of the gratitude I owe to so much goodness, and how much I am ever bound to be your servant. Here is the work of one week of my solitude—by the many faults in it your lordship will easily believe I spent no more time upon it; it was hardly finished when I was obliged

whether I have understood Episcopius
chapter, particularly, I am afraid I have
Piety and greatness of soul set you above
fortunes that can happen to yourself, and
calumnies of false tongues; but that
which renders what happens to yourself
to you, yet softens the natural compassi-
temper to the greatest degree of tenderness
interests of the church, and the liberty of
of your country: the steps that are now
wards the destruction of both, the appar-
we are in, the manifest growth of injus-
pression, and hypocrisy, cannot do other-
give your lordship those hours of sorrow
did not your fortitude of soul, and reflection
religion and philosophy, shorten, would
national misfortunes, by injuring the
great a supporter of our sinking liberty
to ask pardon for this digression: it is
for me in this place to say something
that looks so very presuming

is criminal to improve our reason, or fancy in any. We are taught to place all our art in turning our outward forms, and permitted, without reproach, to carry that custom even to extravagancy, while our minds are entirely neglected, and, by disuse of reflections, filled with nothing but the trifling objects our eyes are daily entertained with. This custom, so long established and industriously upheld, makes it even ridiculous to go out of the common road, and forces one to find as many excuses, as if it were a thing altogether criminal not to play the fool in concert with other women of quality, whose birth and leisure only serve to render them the most useless and most worthless part of the creation. There is hardly a character in the world more despicable, or more liable to universal ridicule, than that of a learned woman: those words imply, according to the received sense, a talking, impertinent, vain, and conceited creature. I believe nobody will deny that learning may have this effect, but it must be a very superficial degree of it. Erasmus was certainly a man of great learning, and good sense; and he seems to have my opinion of it, when he says, "*Femina quæ vere sapit, non videtur sibi sapere; contra, quæ, cum nihil sapiat, sibi videtur sapere, eademum bis stulta est.*" The abbé Bellegarde gives a right reason for women's talking over-much, that they know nothing, and every outward object strikes their imagination, and produces a multitude of thoughts, which, if they knew more; they would know not worth their thinking of. I am not now arguing for an equality of the two sexes. I do not doubt but that God and nature have thrown us into

it being so easy for any man or se
 either his interest or his pleasure,
 The common method is, to begin b
 religion ; they bring them a tho
 arguments, which their excessive i
 them from refuting : and I speak n
 knowledge and conversation amc
 are more atheists among the fine
 loosest sort of rakes ; and the san
 generally works out into excess of
 poses them to the snares of any
 to carry them to the other extrem
 my excuses already too long, and
 the words of Erasmus : “ *Vulgus*
gua Latina non convenit feminis,
ad tuendam illarum pudicitiam,
insolitum est, feminam scire L
consuetudo omnium malarum reru
corum est feminam in German
Gallice, ut loquatur cum his qui s
indulgentium discern

I have tired your lordship, and too long delayed
to subscribe myself

Your lordship's

Most respectful and obliged.

LXVIII.

TO MRS. WORTLEY.

1710.

I RETURN you a thousand thanks, my dear, for so agreeable an entertainment as your letter in our cold climate, where the sun appears unwillingly. Wit is as wonderfully pleasing as a sunshiny day; and, to speak poetically, Phœbus is very sparing of all his favours. I fancied your letter an emblem of yourself: in some parts I found the softness of your voice, and in others the vivacity of your eyes: you are to expect no return but humble and hearty thanks, yet I cannot forbear entertaining you with our York lovers. (Strange monsters you will think, love being as much forced up here as melons.) In the first form of these creatures, is even Mr. Vanbrugh. Heaven, no doubt, compassionating our dullness, has inspired him with a passion that makes us all ready to die with laughing: it is credibly reported that he is endeavouring at the honourable state of matrimony, and vows to lead a sinful life no more. Whether pure holiness inspires his mind, or dotage turns his brain, is hard to find. It is certain he keeps Monday and Thursday market (*assembly* day) constantly; and for those that do not regard worldly muck, there is extraordinary good

do your heart good
tle pleased, in so s
such a number of v
fall to her share.

My service to Mr.

TO M

I AM convinced, how
Anne Wortley, I am
you, therefore I shal
significant story, whe
near leaving this cha
the doctor's assistance
in a condition of being
to

LXX.

TO MRS. WORTLEY.

May 2, 1707.

I HOPE, my dear Mrs. Wortley, that you are so just to me, to believe I could not leave the town without seeing you; but, very much against my own inclination, I am now at Thoresby. Our journey has been very bad; but, in my opinion, the worst part of it was—going from you. I hope you intend to be kinder to me this summer than you were the last. There needs nothing to keep up the remembrance of you in my heart; but I would not think of you, and think you forget me. Farewell, my dear. My letter should be longer, if it were possible to make it so without repetition; but I have already told you I love you, and implored you not to forget me, which (as I hope to breathe) is all I have to say.

LXXI.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

READING over your letter as fast as ever I could, and answering it with the same ridiculous precipitation, I find one part of it escaped my sight; and the other I mistook in several places. Yours was dated the 10th of August; it came not hither

till the 20th. You say something of a packet-bout, &c. which makes me uncertain whether you will receive my letter, and frets me heartily. Kindness, you say, would be your destruction. In my opinion, this is something contradictory to some other expressions. People talk of being in love just as widows do of affliction. Mr. Steele has observed, in one of his plays, "that the most passionate among them have always calmness enough to drive a hard bargain with the upholders." I never knew a lover that would not willingly secure his interest as well as his mistress; or, if one must be abandoned, had not the prudence (among all his distractions) to consider, that a woman was but a woman, and money was a thing of more real merit than the whole sex put together. Your letter is to tell me, you should think yourself undone, if you married me; but if I would be so tender as to confess I should break my heart if you did not, then you would consider whether you would or no; but yet you hoped you should not. I take this to be the right interpretation of—even your kindness cannot destroy me of a sudden—I hope I am not in your power—I would give a good deal to be satisfied, &c.

As to writing—that any woman would do who thought she writ well. Now I say, no woman of common good sense would. At best, it is but doing a silly thing well, and I think it is much better not to do a silly thing at all. You compare it to dressing. Suppose the comparison just:—perhaps the Spanish dress would become my face very well; yet the whole town would condemn me for the highest extravagance if I went to court in it, *though* it improved me to a miracle. There are

thousand things, not ill in themselves, which custom makes unfit to be done. This is to convince me I am so far from applauding my own conduct, my conscience flies in my face every time I think of it. The generality of the world have a great indulgence to their own follies: without being a jot wiser than my neighbours, I have the peculiar misfortune to know and condemn all the wrong things they do.

You beg to know whether I would not be out of humour. The expression is modest enough; but that is not what you mean. In saying I could be easy, I have already said I should not be out of humour: but you would have me say I am violently in love; that is, finding you think better of me than you desire, you would have me give you a just cause to condemn me. I doubt much whether there is a creature in the world humble enough to do that. I should not think you more unreasonable if you were in love with my face, and asked me to disfigure it to make you easy. I have heard of some monks that made use of that expedient to secure their own happiness; but, amongst all the popish saints and martyrs, I never read of one whose charity was sublime enough to make themselves deformed, or ridiculous, to restore their lovers to peace and quietness. In short, if nothing can content you but despising me heartily, I am afraid I shall be always so barbarous as to wish you may esteem me as long as you live.

LXXII.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

I INTENDED to make no answer to your letter; it was something very ungrateful, and I resolved to give over all thoughts of you. I could easily have performed that resolve some time ago, but then you took pains to please me: now you have brought me to esteem you, you make use of that esteem to give me uneasiness; and I have the displeasure of seeing I esteem a man that dislikes me. Farewell, then: since you will have it so, I renounce all the ideas I have so long flattered myself with, and will entertain my fancy no longer with the imaginary pleasure of pleasing you. How much wiser are all those women I have despised than myself? In placing their happiness in trifles, they have placed it in what is attainable. I fondly thought fine clothes and gilt coaches, balls, operas, and public adoration, rather the fatigues of life; and that true happiness was justly defined by Mr. Dryden (pardon the romantic air of repeating verses) when he says,

Whom Heaven would bless it does from pomp remove,
And makes their wealth in privacy and love.

These notions had corrupted my judgment as much as that of Mrs. Biddy Tipkin's. According to this scheme, I proposed to pass my life with you. I yet do you the justice to believe, if any man could have been contented with this manner of living, it would

ave been you. Your indifference to me does not under me from thinking you capable of tenderness and the happinesses of friendship; but I find it is not in me you will ever have them: you think me all that is detestable; you accuse me of want of sincerity and generosity. To convince you of your mistake, I will show you the last extremes of both.

While I foolishly fancied you loved me, (which I confess I had never any great reason for, more than that I wished it,) there is no condition of life I could not have been happy in with you, so very much I liked you—I might say loved, since it is the last thing I will ever say to you. This is telling you sincerely my greatest weakness; and now I will oblige you with a new proof of generosity—I will never see you more. I shall avoid all public places; and this is the last letter I shall send. If you write, be not displeased if I send it back unopened. I shall force my inclinations to oblige yours; and remember that you have told me I could not oblige you more than by refusing you. Had I intended ever to see you again, I durst not have sent this letter. Adieu.

LXXIII.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

THOUGHT to return no answer to your letter, but find I am not so wise as I thought myself. I cannot forbear fixing my mind a little on that expression, though perhaps the only insincere one in your whole letter—I would die to be secure of your

heart, though but for a moment: were this but true, what is there I would not do to secure you?

I will state the case to you as plainly as I can; and then ask yourself if you use me well. I have showed, in every action of my life, an esteem for you that at least challenges a grateful regard. I have trusted my reputation in your hands; I have made no scruple of giving you, under my own hand, an assurance of my friendship. After all this, I exact nothing from you: if you find it inconvenient for your affairs to take so small a fortune, I desire you to sacrifice nothing to me; I pretend no tie upon your honour; but, in recompense for so clear and so disinterested a proceeding, must I ever receive injuries and ill usage?

I have not the usual pride of my sex; I can bear being told I am in the wrong, but tell it me gently. Perhaps I have been indiscreet; I came young into the hurry of the world; a great innocence and an undesigning gaiety may possibly have been construed coquetry and a desire of being followed, though never meant by me. I cannot answer for the observations that may be made on me: all who are malicious attack the careless and defenceless: own myself to be both. I know not any thing I can say more to show my perfect desire of pleasing you and making you easy, than to proffer to be confined with you in what manner you pleased. Would an woman but me renounce all the world for one? or would any man but you be insensible of such proof of sincerity?

LXXIV.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

I HAVE this minute received your two letters. I know not how to direct to you, whether to London or the country; or, if in the country, to Durham or Wortley. It is very likely you will never receive this. I hazard a great deal if it falls into other hands, and I wrote for all that. I wish, with all my soul, I thought as you do; I endeavour to convince myself by your arguments, and am sorry my reason is so obstinate, not to be deluded into an opinion, that it is impossible a man can esteem a woman. I suppose I should then be very easy at your thoughts of me; I should thank you for the wit and beauty you give me, and not be angry at the follies and weaknesses; but, to my infinite affliction, I can believe neither one nor the other. One part of my character is not so good, nor the other so bad, as you fancy it. Should we ever live together, you would be disappointed both ways; you would find an easy equality of temper you do not expect, and a thousand faults you do not imagine. You think, if you married me, I should be passionately fond of you one month, and of somebody else the next: neither would happen. I can esteem, I can be a friend, but I do not know whether I can love. Expect all that is complaisant and easy, but never what is fond, in me. You judge very wrong of my heart, when you suppose me capable of views of

interest, and that any thing could oblige me to flatter any body. Was I the most indigent creature in the world, I should answer you as I do now, without adding or diminishing. I am incapable of art, and it is because I will not be capable of it. Could I deceive one minute, I should never regain my own good opinion ; and who could bear to live with one they despised ?

If you can resolve to live with a companion that will have all the deference due to your superiority of good sense, and that your proposals can be agreeable to those on whom I depend, I have nothing to say against them.

As to travelling, it is what I should do with great pleasure, and could easily quit London upon your account ; but a retirement in the country is not so disagreeable to me, as I know a few months would make it tiresome to you. Where people are tied for life, it is their mutual interest not to grow weary of one another. If I had all the personal charms that I want, a face is too slight a foundation for happiness. You would be soon tired with seeing every day the same thing. Where you saw nothing else, you would have leisure to remark all the defects ; which would increase in proportion as the novelty lessened, which is always a great charm. I should have the displeasure of seeing a coldness, which, though I could not reasonably blame you for, being involuntary, yet it would render me uneasy ; and the more, because I knew a love may be revived which absence, inconstancy, or even infidelity, has extinguished ; but there is no returning from a *dégoût* given by satiety.

I should not choose to live in a crowd : I could

LADY MONTAGU'S LETTERS.

very well pleased to be in London, with making a great figure, or seeing above eight or nine agreeable people. Apartments, table, &c. things that never come into my head. But I never think of any thing without the consent of my family, and advise you not to fancy a happy entire solitude, which you would find only fancy.

Make no answer to this, if you can like me on my own terms. It is not to me you must make proposals: if not, to what purpose is our correspondence?

However, preserve me your friendship, which I think of with a great deal of pleasure, and without vanity. If ever you see me married, I flatter myself you will see a conduct you would not be sorry your wife should imitate.

LXXV.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

I AM going to comply with your request, and with all the plainness I am capable of. I know what may be said upon such a proceeding, but I am sure you will not say it. Why should you attempt the worst construction upon my words? Believe me what you will, but do not believe I can be ungenerous or ungrateful. I wish I could tell you what answer you will receive from some people upon what terms. If my opinion could sway, nothing should displease you. Nobody ever was *disinterested* as I am. I would not have to repeat myself (I do not suppose you would) that I b



and I cannot tell what
me. If you do agree
tribute, as much as li
piness. I so heartily
no notion of spending
one had a great deal to
off, I shall not compla
happens, I shall still I
have behaved yourself
have committed any f
be so just as to think I

I say nothing of my I
safe in your hands.

I shall be uneasy till
I have tried to write pl
can say more upon paper

quieted. Pray which way would you see into my heart? You can frame no guesses about it from either my speaking or writing; and supposing I should attempt to show it you, I know no other way.

I begin to be tired of my humility: I have carried my complaisances to you farther than I ought. You make new scruples: you have a great deal of fancy; and your distrusts being all of your own making, are more immoveable than if there were some real ground for them. Our aunts and grandmothers always tell us that men are a sort of animals, that if ever they are constant, it is only where they are ill used. It was a kind of paradox I could never believe: experience has taught me the truth of it. You are the first I ever had a correspondence with, and I thank God I have done with it, for all my life. You needed not to have told me you are not what you have been: one must be stupid not to find a difference in your letters. You seem, in one part of your last, to excuse yourself from having done me any injury in point of fortune. Do I accuse you of any?

I have not spirits to dispute any longer with you. You say you are not yet determined: let me determine for you, and save you the trouble of writing again. Adieu for ever! make no answer. I wish, among the variety of acquaintance, you may find some one to please you; and cannot help the vanity of thinking, should you try them all, you will not find one that will be so sincere in their treatment, though a thousand more deserving, and every one happier. *It is a piece of vanity and injustice I never forgive in a woman, to delight to give pain: what*

see, to do you the bid
for me to do ; that is
of being rid of me.

I

TO E. W.

THOUGH your letter
having once promised
account of my inmost
shall not find me weak
(whatever you may think)

It is no affectation
sure of pleasing people
equivocal that which is

You may be this friend if you please: did you really esteem me, had you any tender regard for me, I could, I think, pass my life in any station happier with you than in all the grandeur of the world with any other. You have some humours that would be disagreeable to any woman that married with an intention of finding her happiness abroad. That is not my resolution. If I marry, I propose to myself a retirement: there is few of my acquaintance I should ever wish to see again: and the pleasing one, and only one, is the way in which I design to please myself. Happiness is the natural design of all the world; and every thing we see done is meant in order to attain it. My imagination places it in friendship. By friendship, I mean an entire communication of thoughts, wishes, interests, and pleasures, being undivided: a mutual esteem, which naturally carries with it a pleasing sweetness of conversation, and terminates in the desire of making one another happy, without being forced to run into visits, noise, and hurry, which serve rather to trouble than compose the thoughts of any reasonable creature. There are few capable of a friendship such as I have described, and it is necessary for the generality of the world to be taken up with trifles. Carry a fine lady or a fine gentleman out of town, and they know no more what to say. To take from them plays, operas, and fashions, is taking away all their topics of discourse; and they know not how to form their thoughts on any other subjects. They know very well what it is to be admired, but are perfectly ignorant of what it is to be loved. I take you to have sense enough, not to *think this science romantic*: I rather choose to use

U's LETTERS.

n love; because, in the
spoke, it signifies a pas-
fancy than reason; and
mean a mixture of friend-
sh a long acquaintance in-
ar I deserve such a friend-
myself. I may want the
ary to be agreeable to a
I want the vanity to be-
mise you shall never like
e better; and that I shall
ve a better understanding

you to think (if possible)
fter so bold a declaration.
f reserve, and use me ill
ole, to own an inclination
self wholly in his power:
ity enough not to abuse it.
retend no tie but on your
me, I shall not be happy
d add no farther. I am
not receive an obligation
who loves me.

er back again: you have
ou.

place I went last spring.
: it depends upon you in

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LXXVIII.

MONTAGU TO LADY MARY PIERREPONT.

Saturday morning.

RY time you see me, gives me a fresh proof of not caring for me : yet I beg you will meet me more. How could you pay me that great comment of your loving the country for life, when would not stay with me a few minutes longer ? is the happy man you went to ? I agree with I am often so dull, I cannot explain my meaning but will not own that the expression was so obscure, when I said if I had you, I should act as my opinion. Why need I add, I see what is for me, I condemn what I do, and yet I fear I do it. If you cannot find it out, that you are going to be unhappy, ask your sister, who agrees with you in every thing else, and she will convince you of your rashness in this. She knows you do care for me, and that you will like me less and every year ; perhaps every day of your life. You, with a little care, please another as well, and be him less timorous. It is possible I too may be some of those that have but little acquaintance ; and if I should be preferred by a woman, for the first among her companions, it would give as much pleasure as if I were the first man in the world. Think again, and prevent a misfortune falling on both of us.

When you are at leisure, I shall be as ready to all, as I was last night, when I disobliged one,

may call upon me,
next day. Let her dine w
shops, Hyde Park, or othe
bring her home; I can be
I often am, though the m
will have her visit you first,
morrow. I think a man or
gement till the writings
like indiscretion, even to b
probability of concluding it.
my objections to you, and to
against me. Last night yo
reserve: I see you can neve
with me; it is because you
You can be easy and complai
times told me; but never thl
me easy, unless you refuse r

Write a line this evening,
I do not speak plain, do
write? Tell me how to me
in that. If the character

they would have decayed as soon in any other. You see this is not your case. You will think you might have been happier. Never engage with a man, unless you propose to yourself the highest satisfaction from him and none other.

LXXIX.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

Tuesday, 10 o'clock.

I AM in pain about the letter I sent you this morning : I fear you should think, after what I have said, you cannot, in point of honour, break off with me. Be not scrupulous on that article, nor affect to make me break first, to excuse your doing it. I would owe nothing but to inclination : if you do not love me, I may have the less esteem of myself, but not of you : I am not of the number of those women that have the opinion of their persons Mr. Bayes had of his play, that it is the touchstone of sense, and they are to frame their judgment of people's understanding according to what they think of them.

You may have wit, good humour, and good nature, and not like me. I allow a great deal for the inconstancy of mankind in general, and my own want of merit in particular. But it is a breach, at least, of the two last, to deceive me. I am sincere ; I shall be sorry if I am not now what pleases ; but if I (as I could with joy) abandon all things to the care of pleasing you, I am then undone if I do not succeed—Be generous.

LXXX.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

Written after her marriage.

Walling Wells, Oct. 22.

I DO NOT know very well how to begin : I am perfectly unacquainted with a proper matrimonial style. After all, I think it is best to write as if we were not married at all. I lament your absence as if you were still my lover, and I am impatient to hear you have got safe to Durham, and that you have fixed a time for your return.

I have not been very long in this family ; and I fancy myself in that described in the Spectator. The good people here look upon their children with a fondness that more than recompenses their care of them. I do not perceive much distinction in regard to rank or sense or taste. The only difference is in the manner of living, and the style of the house.

you retain the same fondness for me as I shall certainly do for you, when the noise of a nursery may have more charms for us than the music of an opera.

Amusements such as these are the sure effect of my sincere love, since it is the nature of the passion to entertain the mind with pleasures in prospect, and I check myself when I grieve for your absence, by remembering how much reason I have to rejoice in the hope of passing my whole life with you. A good fortune not to be valued!—I am afraid of telling you that I return thanks for it to Heaven, because you will charge me with hypocrisy; but you are mistaken: I assist every day at public prayers in this family, and never forget in my private ejaculations how much I owe to Heaven for making me yours.

It is candle-light, or I should not conclude so soon. Pray, my love, begin at the top, and read till you come to the bottom.

LXXXI.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

Your short letter came to me this morning; but I will not quarrel with it, since it brought me good news of your health. I wait with impatience for that of your return. The bishop of Salisbury writes me word that my lord Pierrepont* declares very

* Gervase Pierrepont, created baron Pierrepont, of Hanlope, 1714; great uncle of lady Mary Wortley Montagu, being at that time an Irish baron.

for the good cause. I
do me, unasked. If his kindness
too valuable to be neglected. Howev
pearance of it must be of use to us.
to write him a letter of acknowledg
hear he has already done. The bis
has seen lord Halifax, who says, b
esteem for you, he has particular
and will take pains to reconcile my
think this is nearly the words of m
contains all the news I know, exce
place; which is, that an unfortunat
town of Huntingdon was justly disg
in the face of the congregation, for
his first love, who, with an audible
banns published between him and a
This accident causes as many dispe
duel could do where you are. Pub
know, always make two parties. The
the young woman should have suff
and the pretenders to spirit and fire
and hence it will

must be particularly impertinent to a man of business; but idleness is the root of all evil: I write and read till I cannot see, and then I walk; sleep succeeds; and thus my whole time is divided. If I were as well qualified all other ways as I am by idleness, I would publish a daily paper called the *Meditator*. The terrace is my place consecrated to meditation, which I observe to be gay or grave as the sun shows or hides his face. Till to-day I have had no occasion of opening my mouth to speak, since I wished you a good journey. I see nothing, but I think of every thing, and indulge my imagination, which is chiefly employed on you.

LXXXII.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

December 9, 1711.

I AM not at all surprised at my aunt Cheyne's conduct: people are seldom very much grieved (and never ought to be) at misfortunes they expect. When I gave myself to you, I gave up the very desire of pleasing the rest of the world, and am pretty indifferent about it. I think you are very much in the right for designing to visit lord Pierrepont. As much as you say I love the town, if you think it necessary for your interest to stay some time here, I would not advise you to neglect a certainty for an uncertainty; but I believe if you pass the Christmas here, great matters will be expected from your hospitality: however, you are a better judge of that than I am. I continue indifferently well, and en-

deavour as much as I can to preserve myself from spleen and melancholy; not for my own sake; I think that of little importance; but in the condition I am, I believe it may be of very ill consequence; yet, passing whole days alone as I do, I do not always find it possible, and my constitution will sometimes get the better of my reason. Human nature itself, without any additional misfortunes, furnishes disagreeable meditations enough. Life itself, to make it supportable, should not be considered too nearly; my reason represents to me in vain the inutility of serious reflections. The idle mind will sometimes fall into contemplations that serve for nothing but to ruin the health, destroy good humour, hasten old age and wrinkles, and bring on an habitual melancholy. It is a maxim with me to be young as long as one can: there is nothing can pay one for that invaluable ignorance which is the companion of youth; those sanguine groundless hopes, and that lively vanity, which make all the happiness of life. To my extreme mortification, I grow wiser every day. I do not believe Solomon was more convinced of the vanity of temporal affairs than I am: I lose all taste of this world, and I suffer myself to be bewitched by the charms of the spleen, though I know and foresee all the irremediable mischiefs arising from it. I am insensibly fallen into the writing you a melancholy letter, after all my resolutions to the contrary; but I do not enjoin you to read it: make no scruple of flinging it into the fire, at the first dull line. Forgive the ill effects of my solitude, and think me, as I am,

Ever yours.

LXXXIII.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ..

1714.

I CANNOT forbear taking it something unkindly that you do not write to me, when you may be assured I am in a great fright, and know not certainly what to expect upon this sudden change. The archbishop of York has been come to Bishopthorp but three days. I went with my cousin to-day to see the king proclaimed, which was done; the archbishop walking next the lord mayor, and all the country gentry following, with greater crowds of people than I believed to be in York, vast acclamations, and the appéarance of a general satisfaction; the Pretender afterwards dragged about the streets, and burned: ringing of bells, bonfires, and illuminations, the mob crying Liberty and Property, and Long live king George! This morning all the principal men of any figure took post for London, and we are alarmed with the fear of attempts from Scotland, though all the Protestants here seem unanimous for the Hanover succession. The poor young ladies at Castle Howard are as much alarmed as I am, being left all alone, without any hopes of seeing their father again (though things should prove well) this eight or nine months. They have sent to desire me very earnestly to come to them, and bring my boy: it is the same thing as pensioning in a nunnery, for no mortal man ever enters the doors in the absence of their father, who

is gone post. During this uncertainty, I think it will be a safe retreat; for Middlethorp stands exposed to plunderers, if there be any at all. I dare say, after the zeal the archbishop has showed, they will visit his house (and consequently this) in the first place. The archbishop made me many compliments on our near neighbourhood, and said he should be overjoyed at the happiness of improving his acquaintance with you. I suppose you may now come in at Aldburgh, and I heartily wish you were in parliament. I saw the archbishop's list of the lords regents appointed, and perceive lord W . . . is not one of them; by which I guess the new scheme is not to make use of any man grossly infamous in either party; consequently, those that have been honest in regard to both, will stand fairest for preferment. You understand these things much better than me; but I hope you will be persuaded by me and your other friends (who I do not doubt will be of my opinion), that it is necessary for the common good for an honest man to endeavour to be powerful, when he can be the one without losing the first more valuable title; and remember, that money is the source of power.—I hear that parliament sits but six months: you know best whether it is worth any expense or bustle to be in it, for so short a time.

LXXXIV.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

27th Oct.

I AM told that you are very secure at Newark : if you are so in the West, I cannot see why you should set up in three different places, except it be to treble the expense. I am sorry you had not opportunity of paying lord Pierrepont that compliment, though I hope that it will not weigh much with him in favour of another. I wish you would remember the common useful maxim, whatever is to be done at all, ought to be done as soon as possible. I consider only your own interest when I speak, and I cannot help speaking warmly on that subject. I hope you will think of what I hinted in my last letters; and if you think of it at all, you cannot think of it too soon.

Adieu. I wish you would learn of Mr. Steele to write to your wife.

LXXXV.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

1714.

THOUGH I am very impatient to see you, I would not have you, by hastening to come down, lose any part of your interest. I am surprised you say no-

or money ; every thing we see, and hear, puts us in remembrance possible to restore liberty to you the encroachments of the prerogative to a garret, I should be glorious a poverty with you ; but and will be, it is a sort of duty may be in one's power to do another word for power, towards which the first necessary qualification, and, as Demosthenes said of property, the second is impudence, and impudence. No modest man will, make his fortune. Your friend R. Walpole, and all other remarkable quick advancement, have been prudent. The ministry is like a play a little door to get in, and a great shoving and thrusting who shall be the first to knock others with their a little kick of the shins and so forth

I do not say it is impossible for an impudent man not to rise in the world ; but a moderate man, with a large share of impudence, is more probable to be advanced than the greatest qualifications without it.

If this letter is impertinent, it is founded upon opinion of your merit, which, if it is a mistake, would not be undeceived : it is my interest to believe (as I do) that you deserve every thing, and : capable of every thing ; but nobody else will believe it, if they see you get nothing.

LXXXVI.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

1714.

You do me wrong in imagining (as I perceive you) that my reasons for being solicitous for your getting that place, was in view of spending more money than we do. You have no cause of fancying capable of such a thought. I do not doubt but that Halifax will very soon have the staff, and it is my belief you will not be at all the richer : but I think it looks well, and may facilitate your election ; that is all the advantage I hope from it. When your intimate acquaintance are preferred, I think you would have an ill air in having nothing : on that account only, I am sorry so many considerable places are disposed of. I suppose, now, you will certainly be chosen somewhere or other ; I cannot see why you should not pretend to be a candidate. I believe all the Whigs would be for you,

impartial; and being chosen by your country
honourable than holding any place from

LXXXVII.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ

I CANNOT imagine why you should
should not be glad, though from mistake
least, it is an agreeable one. I confess
be of opinion, if you are in the treasury
an addition to your figure, and facilitation,
though it is no otherwise advantage
that if you have nothing when all your
ance are preferred, the world generally
persuaded that you neglect your family
you are neglected.

prised you do not mention where you mean
d. Despatch, in things of this nature, if it
a security, at least delay is a sure way to lose,
have done, being easily chosen at York, for
solving in time, and at Aldburgh, for not ap-
soon enough to lord Pelham. There are
who had rather choose Fairfax than Jenkins,
ers that prefer Jenkins to Fairfax ; but both
t, separately, have wished to me, that you
have stood, with assurances of having pre-
you to either of them. At Newark, lord
gton has a very considerable interest. If you
ny thoughts of standing, you must endeavour
w how he stands affected ; though I am afraid
l assist brigadier Sutton, or some other Tory.
atthew Jenison has the best interest of any
; but he stood last year himself, and will per-
do so again. Newdigate will certainly be
there for one. Upon the whole, it is the
expensive and uncertain place you can stand
t is surprising to me, that you are all this
in the midst of your friends without being
of a place, when so many insignificant crea-
come in without any opposition. They say
trickland is sure at Carlisle, where he never
before. I believe most places are engaged by
me. I am very sorry, for your sake, that you
so much money in vain last year, and will
ome in this, when you might make a more
lerable figure than you could have done then.
lord Pelham would compliment Mr. Jessop
his Newark interest, and let you come in at
rgh.

YOUR letter very much vexed me. -
gine why you should doubt being the better
place of that consideration, which it is in
power to lay down, whenever you dislike the
sures that are taken. Supposing the comm
lasts but a short time, I believe those that
acted in it will have the offer of some other
derable thing. I am, perhaps, the only won
the world that would dissuade her husband
were inclined to it) from accepting the gr
place in England, upon the condition of his
one vote disagreeing with his principles, an
true interest of my country; but when it is po
to be of service to your country by going along
the ministry, I know not any reason for de
an honourable post. The world never beli
for people to act out of the common
employed by the publ

y in the wrong, withdrawing from them, it is visible that he might still keep his s, if he had not chose to keep his integrity. I sent you my thoughts of places in general, I only protest, without any thought of any particular advantage to myself; and if I were your ad, and not your wife, I should speak in the same manner, which I really do, without any consideration, but that of your figure and reputation, which is a thousand times dearer to me than splendor, money, &c. I suppose this long letter might have been spared; for your resolution, I do not doubt, is already taken.

XC.

TO E. W. MONTAGU, ESQ.

1714.

You seem not to have received my letters, or not to have understood them: you had been chosen undoubtedly at York, if you had declared in time; but there is not any gentleman or tradesman disengaged at this time; they are treating every night. Lord Carlisle and the Thompsons have given their interest to Mr. Jenkins. I agree with you of the necessity of your standing this parliament, which, perhaps, may be more considerable than any that are to follow it; but, as you proceed, it is my opinion, you will spend your money, and not be chosen. I believe there is hardly a borough disengaged. I expect every letter should tell me you are sure of some place; and, as far as I can perceive, you are

will be some friend of the borough chosen for a considerable town he now too late. If you have any thought for you to live, after lord Lexington's interest; and your best way to apply to lord Holderness, who is both a Whig and an honest man. He is now in town, and you may inquire of him, if brigadier Sutton stands there; and if not, try to engage him for Lord Lexington is so ill at the Bath, that it doubt if he will live till the election; and if he one of his heiresses, and the whole interest estate, will probably fall on lord Holderness. It is a surprise to me, that you cannot see of some borough, when a number of friends bring in so many parliament men, trouble or expense. It is too late to say you might have applied to lord Lexington did last year.

LETTERS
TO
MRS. HEWET.

THE following Letters
Bute's Collection: the
received them from L
Wastneys, of Headon
queathed, with other p
Mrs. afterward lady
of Richard Bettinson, e
of Edward Cecil, lord
Mr. T. Hewet, who was
woods and works. He w
at Shireoaks, in Notting
His lady long survived
accomplishments and bea
treme old age.

These Letters were chie
about two years previous
a lively portrait of the man
at the beginning of the la
characteristics of genius and
the earliest period of her lif



LETTERS.

XCI.

TO MRS. HEWET.

It is so long since I had a letter from dear Hewet, I should think her no longer in the land of the living, if Mr. Resingade did not assure me she was happier than I, and had heard of your letter from your own hand, which makes me fancy my last miscarried, and perhaps you are blaming me at the same time that you are thinking me not unfaithful of you. Apropos of Mr. Resingade—we have grown such good friends, I assure you, that we write Italian letters to each other, and I have the pleasure of talking to him of Madame Hewet. He told me he would send you the two *tomes* of Madame de Nöyer's Memoirs. I fancy you will be yourself disappointed in them, for they are but grave and insipid: and, instead of the gallant romances you might expect, they are full of dull morals. I was at the last Thursday at the new Opera, and saw Nöyer strangle a lion with great gallantry. But he presented nakedness so naturally, I was surpris-

tingham races. How far it m
tell. By what fine gentlemen
not easy to guess at what they
made an acquaintance with me
Pyramus and Thisbe, I mean
yards high, which separates ou
Guildford's. The young ladie
way to pull out two or three l
up and hang their chins over t
mounted on chairs, used to ha
versations à la dérobée for fear
This trade continued several da
dom permits long pleasures. I
the wall the bricks loosened; a
ing, down drops Miss Nelly; a
misfortune, she fell into a little
her poor —— self to that terri
forced to have surgeon's plaste
what, which discovered the wl
their mamma forbade them ever

XCII.

TO MRS. HEWET.

I HOPE my dear Mrs. Hewet does not believe that I follow my inclination, when I am two or three posts before I return thanks for her most agreeable letters; but in this busy town there is very little time at one's own disposal. My greatest pleasure is at Mrs. Selwyn's; I came from thence just now, and I believe am the only young woman in town that am in my own house at ten o'clock to-night. This is the night of count Turracca's ball, to which he has invited a few bare-faced, and the whole town *en masque*. I suppose you will have a description of it from some who were at it; I can only give it at second hand, and will therefore say nothing of it. I have begun to learn Italian, and am much mortified I cannot do it of a signor of monsieur Resingade's recommendation; but it is always the fate of women to obey, and my papa has promised me to a Mr. Cassotti. I am afraid I shall never understand it so well as you do—but *laissons cela*, and talk of somewhat more entertaining.

Next to the great ball, what makes the most noise is the marriage of an old maid, who lives in this street, without a portion, to a man of 7000*l.* *per annum*, and they say 40,000*l.* in ready money. Her equipage and liveries outshine any body's in town. He has presented her with 3000*l.* in jewels;

at table. They were n
to church *en parade* on
in the pew with them,
ing Mrs. Bride fall fast
sermon, and snore ver
several women in the ci
not quite so ugly as the
ple say it was all counte
believe that to be scanda
but downright necessity
word of the sermon. Ho
her for her devotion, pat
Christian virtues he obse
(who has left no childre
and so good-natured, as t
salvation to secure his.
to have a companion in th
has given him a girl

XCHL.

TO MRS. HEWET.

Arlington-street.

I do not doubt, but that before this time, my dear Mrs. Hewet has a thousand times called me ungrateful, and has often repented of the many kindnesses she has done me in the country. *Les apparences sont trompeuses*—I am as much your servant as ever, and think of you with the friendship and acknowledgment I owe you. A train of disagreeable events has hindered my having one leisure moment; and at this very time my poor head is distracted with such a variety of *gallimatias*, that I cannot tell you one bit of news. The fire I suppose you have had a long and true account of, though not perhaps that we were raised at three o'clock, and kept waking till five, by the most dreadful sight I ever saw in my life. It was near enough to fright all our servants half out of their senses: however, we escaped better than some of our neighbours. Mrs. Braithwayte, a Yorkshire beauty, who had been but two days married to a Mr. Coleman, ran out of bed *en chemise*, and her husband followed her in his, in which pleasant dress they ran as far as St. James's-street, where they met with a chair, and prudently crammed themselves both into it, observing the rule of dividing the good and bad fortune of this life, resolved to run all hazards together, and ordered the chairman to carry them both away, perfectly representing, both in love and nakedness

and want of eyes to see that they were naked first happy parents. Sunday last I had the pleasure of hearing the whole history from the lady's mouth.

The next most extraordinary adventure is famous quarrel between her grace of Hamilton captain Hero; but I suppose you cannot be rant of so surprising an event.

Deaths nor marriages I know of none, but Stephen Evans, that hanged himself, and my Evelyn, who will be married next week. The bell rings; my next shall be longer, with some count of your fair family.

XCIV.

TO MRS. HEWET.

I suppose my dear Mrs. Hewet has by this resolved never to think more on so insensible ungrateful a creature, that could be so long turning thanks for such a letter, and has repaid of past favours. I cannot blame your resentments are so much against me; and yet not so much to blame as you imagine. You pressed a desire of seeing the second part of *Atantis*. I had just then sent to London and did not question having it last Saturday. I hoped that a book you had a mind to see atone for the nothingness of my letter, and was resolved not to send one without the other; like an unfortunate projector, as I am, my desires are always followed by disappointment. Saturday

came, and no book; God forgive me, I had certainly wished the lady who was to send it me hanged, but for the hopes it was come by the Nottingham carrier, and then I should have it on Monday; but, after waiting Monday and Tuesday, I find it is not come at all. Now, madam, I do not question your forgiveness, and hope, that when I do not write to Mrs. Hewet, there is some unavoidable cause for my silence. Your news and your book very much diverted me; it is an old, but very pleasant Spanish novel. When we leave this place I am not able to tell you. I have no reason to wish it, but since I cannot see you, that it may be in my power to write you more entertaining letters. I had some last post told me that lady Essex Saville was going to be married to lord Lonsdale. I will not swear to the truth of it, for people make no conscience of what they write into the country, and think any thing good enough for poor us. There is another story that I had from a hand I dare depend upon. The duke of Grafton and Dr. Garth ran a foot-match in the Mall, of 200 yards, and the latter, to his immortal glory, beat. I pray God you may not have heard this already. I am promised a cargo of lampoons from the Bath, and if they come safe, you shall share them with me. My dear, dear Mrs. Hewet, could I contribute any way to your diversion, it would be the height of my ambition.

XCV.

TO MRS. HEWET.

Nov. 12.

You have not then received my letter? Well! I shall run mad. I can suffer any thing rather than that you should continue to think me ungrateful. I think it is the last of pains to be thought criminal, where one most desires to please, as I am sure it is always my wish to dear Mrs. Hewet.

I am very glad you have the second part of the new *Atalantis*; if you have read it, will you be so good as to send it me? and in return, I promise to get you the key to it. I know I can. But do you know what has happened to the unfortunate authoress? People are offended at the liberty she uses in her memoirs, and she is taken into custody. Miserable is the fate of writers; if they are agreeable, they are offensive; and if dull, they starve. I lament the loss of the other parts which we should have had; and have five hundred arguments at my fingers' ends to prove the ridiculousness of those creatures that think it worth while to take notice of what is only designed for diversion. After this, who will dare to give the history of *Angella*? I was in hopes her faint essay would have provoked some better pen to give more elegant and secret memoirs; but now she will serve as a scare-crow to frighten people from attempting any thing but heavy panegyric; and we shall be teased with nothing but heroic poems, with names at length, and false characters, so daubed with flattery, that they are the severest kind of lampoons, for they both scan-

dalize the writer and the subject, like that vile paper the Tatler.

I believe, madam, you will think I have dwelt too long on this business; but I am in a violent passion about it. My dear Mrs. Hewet, is it impossible you should come here? I would not ask it if I had a coach to wait upon you; but I am not born to have any thing I have a mind to. All the news I know is, that Mrs. Reeves is married to colonel Sydney; if you know neither of them, I will send you their pictures at full length;) and that giddy rake Cresswell, to a fortune of 2000*l.* a year. I send you the bath lampoons—Corinna is lady Manchester, and the other lady is Mrs. Cartwright, who, they say, has pawned her diamond necklace, to buy Valentine's snuff-box. These wars make men so violent carce, that these good ladies take up with the shadows of them. This is the sum total of all the news I know, and you see I am willing to divert you all to my power. I fancy the ill spelling of the lampoons will make you laugh more than the verses; indeed I am ashamed for her who wrote them. As soon as possible, be pleased to send me the second part of the Atalantis, &c.

XCVI.

TO MRS. HEWET.

A thousand thanks to you for madame de Nöyer's letters; I wish signor Roselli may be as diverting to you as she has been to me. The stories are very extraordinary; but I know not whether she has not added a few *agréments* of invention to them; how-

turn her thoughts a little :
would succeed better than the
Atalantis. I am sure I like
better, which has, I think,
between the gay and the se-
rious, nor affected by pride.

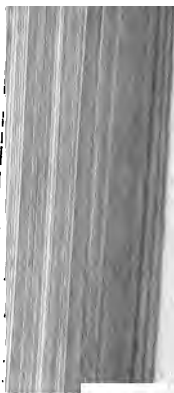
I take an interest in Mr.
a battle like that, I think
come off alive. I should be
glad that could touch you
may very well rejoice where
for any. Adieu, madam.
me nothing but compliments
news. I heard the last, that
ed. You can tell me what

Excuse my dulness ; and
read a letter of mine but I
when you are entirely alone

XCVII.

TO MRS. HEWET.

I HAVE a thousand thanks to give to my dear Mrs. Hewet for her news, and above all, the letter; and I would not have delayed them, but your messenger was in haste, and I was resolved to write you a long scribble. My advices of Saturday say, that a peace will positively be concluded. This comes from the same hand that wrote so contrary on Thursday, and I depend very much on the intelligence. I am charmed with your *correspondante*; for I hope it is a woman; and if it is, I reckon her an honour to our sex. I am in no fear of the reflection you mention; and, as I am perfectly innocent, God knows, I am far from thinking I can be suspected. Your news, and no news, I know not what to make of at present. My domestic affairs go on so ill, I want spirits to look abroad. I have got a cold that disables my eyes, and disorders me every way: and after much contestation, I have submitted to take medicine. You see how stupid I am; but I have the oddest jumble of disagreeable things in my head that ever plagued poor mortals; a great cold, a bad peace, people I love in disgrace, sore eyes, the horrid prospect of a civil war, and the thoughts of a filthy potion to take. I believe nobody ever had such a melange before. My companions are your servants. I had forgot the Spectators: one is not worth mentioning; the other is so plain and so good sense, I wonder any body of five years old does not find out that he is in the right.



but I waited for
I might hope to see
this long time. I
which will be quite
about eight years
tirely forgot every
not see you, though
return into Nottingham
year; but all that
ground to believe
You can expect no
at present in her
ideas that naturally
I may almost say, I
forgotten it. Be so good
to ask her if she recollects
I am sure I must see her
and answer her.

choose mine, it should never be to stay perpetually in the same place. I should even prefer little storms to an eternal calm; and though I am displeased not to see you, I am not sorry to see a new part of the kingdom.

My dear Mrs. Hewet, preserve me your friendship wherever my fortune carries me, and believe that I am equally in all places yours.

Continue your direction to Arlington-street.

XCIX.

TO MRS. HEWET.

TILL this minute I was in hopes of waiting on dear Mrs. Hewet before we left the country, which made me defer writing; but now positive orders oblige us to go to-morrow, and the horses must rest to-day, so that this paper must give you thanks for me, for all the many favours which could not have been bestowed on one who could have had a more quick and lasting sense of them. When I am in London, I will certainly send you all that passes, though I fancy you have it from people better both at writing and intelligence.

Mrs. C. whose character you desire to know, is a lady who has made a great noise in the world; but I never thought she would come to make such a figure in it. The lord she has snapped made a lampoon on her last winter. For my part, I never heard her speak in my life. She is generally thought handsome. If miss Selwyn (as I wish she may) applies her place, there will be one much hand-

somer.* Amidst the hurry of taking such a journey to-morrow, I am sure you will forgive my letters being no longer: you know people can never leave your company, or writing to you, without regret. Write to me where to direct to you, and direct to me in Arlington-street, near St. James's, London.

C.

TO MRS. HEWET.

MOST of the neighbours hereabouts have been to see me, but they are very few, and few of those few that are supportable—none agreeable. This part of the world is so different from Nottinghamshire, that I can hardly persuade myself it is in the same kingdom. The men here are all Sylvios, no Myrtillos. If they could express themselves so well, they would say, like him,

“ Mille nimfe darai per una fera
 Che di melampo mio cacciato fosse
 Godasi queste gioje
 Chi n'ha di me piujusto, io non le scuto.”

Though they cannot say it in Italian verse, they often speak to that purpose in English prose over a bottle, insensible of other pleasures than hunting and drinking. The consequence of which is, the poor female part of their family being seldom permitted a coach, or at best but a couple of starved jades, to drag a dirty chariot, their lords and masters having no occasion for such a machine, as their mornings are spent among the hounds, and the nights with as beastly companions, with what

* At St. James's, of the bed-chamber.

quor they can get in this country, which is not ery famous for good drink. If this management id not hinder me the company of my ~~she~~ neighbours, I should regret the absence of the Pastor Idos, being of the opinion of Sylvia in Tasso,

"Albrì segne idiletti di l'amore
Se pur v'e ne l'amor alcun diletto."

I would fain persuade you to practise your Italian. fear I shall forget to speak it, for want of somebody to speak it to. Amongst the rest of the advantages I should have in your conversation, (if I hould be so happy as to be with you) I would endeavour to improve in that polite language. I find ou are very busy about politics; we are the same ere, particularly in the pulpit, where the parsons ould fain become as famous as Sacheverel, and are ery sorry that they cannot have the honour of being *tried* too. For my part, I content myself in my humble sphere, am passive in their disputes, and endeavour to study my Italian in peace and quietness. but people mistake very much in placing peace in woods and shades, for I believe solitude puts people out of humour, and makes them disposed to quarrel, or there would not be so many disputes about religion and liberty, by creatures that never understood the first, nor have, or are likely to have, a taste of the latter.

"Crush'd by the stint of thirty pounds a year."

CI.

TO MRS. HEWET.

WOULD willingly return dear Mrs. Hewet something more, for diverting me so well, than dry

opportunity, I kn
of sending. Mr. S
week married to
man, whom he fel
from her horse *
Mrs. White, Mrs.
with me ; and I am
tour à tour, that I
to tell you, in a
thankful humble se

TO

her senses along with her fortune, for the use of her grace; I thought her other faculties as imperfect as that of hearing. I am glad she is not such a stock as I took her to be. I beg your pardon that I must write a letter without news, but I do not now have one bit, if it were to stand one instead of my neck verse. I am here waiting the meeting of the parliament, and am persuaded you will be in London before me; if not, I will endeavour to see you. You talk of the duke of Leeds—I hear that he has placed his heroic love upon the bright charms of a jeweller's wife; and, after a long amour, and many perilous adventures, has stolen the fair lady, which, in spite of his wrinkles and grand-child, persuades people of his youth and gallantry. You see what stuff I am forced to write, but to such I am compelled, excepting I should entertain you with York loves and piques, which would be as dull to you as what passed at the last wake. It is impossible to laugh at what they do, without having first laughed at what they are.

I am, madam, yours.

This is abrupt; but the post will wait for no man.

CIII.

TO MRS. HEWET.

Adrianople, April 1, 1717.

DARE say my dear Mrs. Hewet thinks me the most stupid thing alive, to neglect so agreeable a correspondence; but it has hitherto been utterly

LADY MONTAGU'S LETTERS.

power to continue it. I have been hurried down, without intermission, these last eight days, wholly taken up either in going post, or unable leisure it is possible to find on either of those employments. I like travelling extremely, and have had no reason to complain of having had too little of it, having now gone through all the Turkish dominions in Europe, and the whole tour of Germany; Hungary, Bohemia, and the whole tour of Germany; but those are trifles to this last. I cannot, however, (thank God,) complain of having suffered by fatigue, either in my own health or that of my family. My son never was better in his life. This country is certainly one of the finest in the world; hitherto all I see is so new to me, it is like a fresh scene of an opera every day. I will not tire you with descriptions of places or manners, which perhaps you have no curiosity for; but only desire you with so good as to let me hear as oft as you can, (which can be no other than very seldom,) what passes on your side of the globe. Before you can receive this, you must consider all things as six months old, which now appear new to me. There will be so far, as it will be entirely disinterested and from ostentation, (it not being possible for me to boast of your letters,) and it will be very special to your precious soul, which I pray to put into your head to consider accordingly.

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